

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	19 th April 2016
DIRECTOR	Richard Ellis
TITLE OF REPORT	Digital Connectivity
REPORT NUMBER	CG/16/006
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval for a digital connectivity programme, (overview diagram in Appendix 1) and to approve the associated steps required to implement this strategy in accordance with this Report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- (a) Approves the digital connectivity programme and the associated steps required to implement this strategy in accordance with this detail contained in the report.
- b) Instructs the Head of IT and Transformation to procure and implement free public access Wi-Fi within the city centre.
- c) Delegates authority to the Head of IT and Transformation and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to conclude negotiations for the SWAN contract to provide the potential of 1 GB fibre connectivity to council premises and notes the potential of this to drive additional private sector investment across the city.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In delivering the digital connectivity programme there will be capital and revenue costs associated with the following:

- a) Costs for enabling existing SWAN contract to increase connectivity potential to ultrafast (fibre based) connectivity as detailed in table below
- b) The Council will seek to procure City Centre Wi-Fi solution through a full concessionary model, if possible, as described in paragraph 5.4.

To be funded through existing service IT budgets and funds from digital programme's approved capital budget.

Project	Capital	Funding	Revenue	Funding
SWAN Upgrade	£250K	Through Digital Strategy capital funds	300K	Through existing IT service budgets.
City Centre Wi-Fi	-	Using a concessionary model at no cost to the council	-	Using a concessionary model at no cost to the council

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Resources will be required from Legal and Democratic Services and Commercial and Procurement Services for the delivery of the recommendations above.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 The Digital Place Strategy, which will go before full council in August 2016, will deliver a wide programme of digital transformation for the city region, delivering innovation, economic stimulus and citizen well-being. That strategy will be heavily dependent on our putting in place a digital connectivity programme to deliver the data required to fuel the innovation. That connectivity is the subject of this report. The digital connectivity programme underpins the Digital Place Strategy.

5.2 Digital Connectivity

Digital connectivity enables the delivery of modern, digital, public-facing services. It also is a key enabler for economic development and for citizen well-being, as it will allow us to co-develop joined-up services. Getting the connectivity (both fixed and mobile) right will allow high volumes of business and private data to be carried quickly, securely and efficiently.

5.3 Fibre Connectivity

The fixed networks will be fibre-based, and include ultrafast fibre connection to the premises for both homes and businesses. Similar high-performance

public sector networks will permit the efficient collaboration between agencies, supporting health, social care, and wider public sector integration. Together these connective technologies will deliver high-speed connectivity for the citizens, visitors, public sector workers and businesses in the city region.

The strategy is to leverage the Council's network coverage to encourage further private sector investment in 1GB fibre straight into homes and businesses. This will not provide coverage everywhere and in particular more deprived areas. To achieve this, the Council will require further funding and this forms part of the City Regional Deal.

5.4 City Centre Wi-Fi

As well as connectivity through fibre this programme also aims to provide free public Wi-Fi across the city. The first step in this will be to procure free public Wi-Fi in the city centre.

The Council would seek to procure this on a full concessionary basis, in other words at no cost to the Council.

The next phase will be to roll out free public Wi-Fi to the rest of the City area developing on models currently being tested and deployed in a range of city based programmes.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –Improved digital connectivity delivered through the measures mentioned above will improve the customer experience throughout the city. Internal and external customers will benefit from world class digital connectivity and the benefits that high speed fibre connectivity brings to their lives.

Improving Staff Experience – Improved digital connectivity will improve staff experience by enabling employees to deliver services better and to deliver their own roles more effectively.

Improving our use of Resources – The implementation of the digital connectivity measures mentioned above will transform the way the Council delivers services and will future proof the Council in many areas. This will reduce the strain on resources and lead to the more effective use of resources.

Corporate – The activities proposed in this report will support the Smarter Aberdeen outcomes:

We will support Smarter Governance by providing high speed networks over which we can deliver first class services, more efficiently and effectively, and improving the means by which citizens can transact with government.

We will support Smarter Living by enabling the delivery of digital solutions so citizens can choose to access our services digitally, at a time and place which suits their lives, and putting state of the art technology to support tele-health and smart energy solutions in the homes of those who most need it.

We will support Smarter People by giving those who receive our services, such as children or those on lower incomes, the ability to fully exploit the opportunities afforded by digital solutions.

We will encourage Smarter Mobility - allowing people to choose to work remotely where it suits them to do so, minimizing environmental impact of commuting.

We will support a Smarter Economy providing the high speed connectivity necessary to permit business to start up, and stay in the city. The digital connectivity programme also specifically supports:

- City Centre Master Plan by designing digital connectivity and applications into major infrastructure programmes.
- Communities Empowerment Bill by using digital technologies to give communities online choices for service delivery and better communication channels over ultrafast connections.
- Enabling Health & Social integration through delivering the connectivity necessary to join up systems and carry data securely between networks.

Public – This report will be of interest to the public.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Each project within the digital connectivity programme will have governance measures in place with risk being managed within that governance framework.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1

