

Appendix 3. Proposed North Wales LFFN interventions

Public Sector Connectivity

Upgrading of public sector connectivity by replacing current copper (slow / low and relatively expensive bandwidth) connections with better value, faster 'full fibre' connections at around 400 sites across the region (up to 95 within Denbighshire). Among the direct public sector beneficiaries will be the Local Authorities, BCUHB, North Wales Fire and Rescue, GP surgeries etc.

The public sector upgrades will be delivered via the well-established Welsh public sector procurement framework known as PSBA (Public Sector Broadband Aggregation), with BT providing the service to the sites.

Surrounding residential and business properties will benefit from the investment in the Openreach network. Wider availability of full fibre broadband to the private sector will result from the investment in the public sector sites and UK DCMS considers those within 50m of the 'target' site (e.g. a library) to be within reach of this positive impact, with this potentially extending to 200m depending on local network design.

The outcome of the investment will be an almost complete coverage of full fibre connectivity across the public sector in North Wales, making it one of the best connected in the UK.

The North Wales LFFN project has been developed in parallel to a digital connectivity project as part of the NWEAB Growth Bid. The two projects are separate but complimentary in that they share common objectives.

It should be noted that the Welsh Government have been delivering the 'Superfast Cymru' project to ensure that 96% of premises across Wales have access to 'superfast broadband'. Where this is generally sufficient at present for most households and some businesses at the 'superfast' threshold of 30Mbps, the full-fibre proposal of the LFFN and Growth Deal Projects will deliver 1,000Mbps+ and represents a future proof, gold standard of broadband connectivity.

It is proposed that DCC will act as the Lead Body for the NWEAB and represent the wider public sector partnership in relation to the LFFN Project, including acting as "banker" for the funding. DCC will coordinate payments to other LAs and public sector partners to fund the Public Sector Upgrades.

In order that DCC may act as Lead Body in respect of this project, there will need to be an Inter Authority Agreement to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of each of the partner bodies is clearly defined and that the appropriate indemnities are provided to DCC in respect of the work that will be undertaken as Lead Body.

Given the size of the LFFN project with £9m of digital investment over the whole the region, it is proposed to create 1 new temporary job to support the delivery of the project. It is envisaged that this role will initially be hosted by DCC and transferred to the NWEAB's 'Programme Office' which will be established to deliver all the NWEAB projects, including those funded by the Growth Deal.

The costs of the new Officer and the contributions from DCC's existing staff to the project will be covered by NWEAB funds (including relevant Growth Deal money). The project management and delivery structure is illustrated in Appendix 2.

