Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

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Title of meeting: Resources Portfolio Meeting

Subject: Super Connected Cities Programme - Update report

Date of meeting: 4 December 2014

Report by: Head of Information Service

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose

1.1   This report is to update the Resources Portfolio meeting of the development of the Super Connected Cities Programme changes that have been made since the original bid was submitted in September 2012 and what the programme is set to deliver for the city.

2. Background

2.1   Portsmouth City Council was successful in its bid to the Department of Media Culture and Sport in autumn 2012 to become one of the 22 Super Connected Cities and got awarded just under £5m.

2.2   The programme changed at a national level due to state aid regulations, causing the original bid to be re-shaped in a way which moved it from infrastructure build to a series of linked projects still aiming to achieve connectivity in the city.

3.   Structure of the Programme

3.1   **Project 1: Free Public WiFi** (allocated £1,875,000). This project involves providing over 40 PCC buildings (see appendix 1 for a complete list) with free public good quality Wi-Fi, including the Civic Offices. The Wi-Fi will be branded as 'My City WiFi'. It is hoped that this will support our residents and local businesses through digital inclusion. It will also further support the Working Anywhere project, as each of the locations will allow for staff to wirelessly touch down to the corporate network. My City WiFi will also provide access to the Eduroam network (currently used by students of the University of Portsmouth). It is hoped in future more educational establishments in the city will make use of the Eduroam network and help to create a strong culture of learning in the city, especially for those children who may not have easy access to the internet at home.

Portsmouth City Council has recently submitted a further bid under the Public WiFi project for £1.4m for a further 37 sites as part of Project 1.

3.2 **Project 2: Wi-Fi Concession** (allocated £750,000). This element of the programme sought to provide freely accessible Wi-Fi in public areas across the city. Early engagement with the market indicated that there was a strong interest, however during the procurement phase the market drivers for the telecoms and mobile industry shifted, and the PQQ responses did not leave the city council in a strong enough position to want to risk taking the project further at this point in time. An options paper has been reviewed by the super connected cities programme board, and it has been agreed to concentrate on the successful implementation of the other strands of the programme, before revisiting an options appraisal for the concession.

3.3 **Project 3: Connection Vouchers** (allocated £2,236,000). In order to still meet the original strategic objectives of DCMS and BDUK, but to stay clear of any state aid implications, SME businesses in Portsmouth are able to apply for a voucher to offset the cost of a high quality internet connection. The vouchers are available for a value between £100-£3,000 per business. Since September 2014, the scheme has been extended to cover the administrative areas of Gosport, Havant and Fareham borough councils. We have currently issued 29 vouchers of a target of 160.

3.4 **Project 4:** Demonstrator Hub. In order to support small and start-up businesses about the benefits of a high speed internet connection, and how this can impact on business growth, a 'demonstrator hub' was opened where technology can be showcased, and support provided to businesses on what technology can do to assist them, with events for local SMEs to attend demonstrating technologies such as cloud storage, voice over IP communications and video conferencing.

4. **Timescales**

4.1 The overall programme requires completion by March 2015.

5. **Benefits**

5.1 The benefits to PCC will be tangible. It is an ideal opportunity to position the council with start-up and small business and focus on supporting them with growth and regeneration of the city.

5.2 From an education perspective, it creates a strong starting position for further collaboration with the University of Portsmouth, and a drive to get all schools signed up to the Eduroam network.

5.3 Through an enhanced network of public access points across the city, PCC will be working to support its residents through digital inclusion, and access to the internet for free.

6. **Summary**

6.1 The programme has been a demanding one, but with the potential for huge benefits for the city and its residents.

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Signed by (Head of Service)

Appendices:
Appendix 1 - List of WiFI in public buildings (Phase 1 approved)
Appendix 2 - List of WiFI in public buildings (Phase 2 informally approved)

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

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Appendix 1 - List of WiFI in public buildings (Phase 1 approved)

1. Civic Offices
2. Continental Ferry Port
3. Portsmouth Park and Ride
4. Anchorage Lodge Community Centre
5. Baffins Community Centre
6. Buckland Community Centre
7. Cosham Community Centre
8. Eastney Community Centre
9. Fratton Community Centre
10. Havelock Community Centre
11. Highbury Community Centre
12. Milton Community Centre
13. Paulsgrove Community Centre
14. Stacey Community Centre
15. Stamshaw and Tipner Community Centre
16. Brunel Centre Community Centre
17. Hillside and Wymering Community Centre
18. The Learning Place
19. Somerstown Central
20. Landport Community Centre
21. Beddow Library
22. Carnegie Library
23. Central Library
24. Cosham Library
25. Southsea Library
26. North End Library
27. Paulsgrove Library
28. Alderman Lacey Library
29. Buckland Housing Office
30. Landport Housing Office
31. Leigh Park Housing Office
32. Paulsgrove Housing Office
33. Wecock Farm Housing Office
34. Tangiers Road Children Home
35. Sky Close Children Home
36. Buckland Children Centre
37. Fratton Children Centre
38. Landport Children Centre
39. Northern Parade Children Centre
40. Paulsgrove Children Centre
41. Somerstown Children Centre

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42. Milton Park, Cumberland, Baffins Children Centre
43. D-Day Museum
44. Portsmouth City Museum
45. Cumberland House Museum
46. Charles Dickens Museum

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Appendix 2 - List of WiFI in public buildings (Phase 2 informally approved)

1.   Hillsea Lido Blue Lagoon
2.   Registry Office
3.   Kennels
4.   Southsea Castle
5.   Round Tower
6.   Square Tower
7.   Royal Armoury (Royal Marines Museum)
8.   Eastney Swimming Centre
9.   Guildhall
10. Friendship Centre
11. Portsmouth Study Centre
12. Portsmouth Beneficial Centre
13. Charles Dicken Centre
14. Edgebaston Community Room
15. Tipton House Community Room
16. Millgate Community Room
17. Sarah Robinson Community Room
18. Beechside Restbite Centre
19. PCMI (Employment Learning and Skills Service)
20. Go For It Centre
21. New Road Centre
22. Loewood Centre
23. Henderson Road Centre
24. Warren Avenue Centre
25. Russets Centre
26. Royal Albert Centre
27. Portsmouth Carers Centre
28. Shearwater Care Home
29. Corben Lodge
30. Maritime House (Victoria Unit)
31. Campion Place
32. Portsea Adventure Playground (internal area only)
33. Somerstown Adventure Playground (internal area only)
34. Landport Adventure Playground (internal area only)
35. Buckland Adventure Playground (internal area only)
36. Stamshaw Adventure Playground (internal area only)
37. Paulsgrove Adventure Playground (internal area only)