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Title of meeting: Resources Portfolio

Subject: Update on Super Connected Cities Programme

Date of meeting: 22nd October 2015

Report by: Director of Finance and Information Services

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by: Councillor Lee Mason

2. Purpose

2.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the Super Connected Cities Programme and the potential opportunities afforded by the new wifi infrastructure deployed in the City.

3. Information Requested

3.1 Introduction

The Super Connected Cities initiative was a Government sponsored scheme by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) to transform broadband access across the UK enabling everyone access to high-speed broadband. Approval was given for PCC to pursue three distinct strands as a part of the programme:

- WiFi to Public Buildings (My City WiFi)
- Vouchers to cover the cost of installation or upgrade of an SME's broadband line
- Demonstrator Hub

3.2 Background

There were three main goals for the Super Connected City programme:

- To support economic growth innovation and enterprise in Portsmouth
- To enhance the competitiveness of our city
- To aid digital inclusion.

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3.3 Progress to Date

WiFi to public buildings

The main objective for the public building wifi project was to provide high-speed, high quality, secure, and specifically 'free' wifi access in public buildings across the city to as many residents and visitors as possible.

Initially PCC was awarded £1,875,000 to provide wifi to 49 public buildings that would give as much coverage across the City in key community based areas but also where there was high footfall (such as the Portsmouth Ferry Port and the Tipner Park & Ride).

In December 2014 following an application to the DCMS a sum of £1,380,600 was reallocated to the public wifi scheme from the initial allocation to the voucher scheme (see below). At the conclusion of the scheme public access wifi was rolled out to a total of 79 sites. All sites were completed and operational by 30th June 2015.

Vouchers

The second strand of the scheme was to encourage local small and medium sized business to apply for a broadband connection voucher to increase the superfast broadband coverage across the city. The Council was initially awarded £2,236,000 to support the application of 500 vouchers as this was the main purpose of the scheme. However due to low uptake nationally as well as in Portsmouth, DCMS agreed to reduce the voucher target to 160. As a consequence £1,380,600 of voucher funding was re-allocated to the public wifi project (as discussed above) leaving an agreed final sum of £855,400 for the voucher scheme.

By the 31st March 2015 the initial target of 160 had been exceeded with a total of 203 vouchers issued. Due to the slow take up of the scheme nationally the DCMS decided to extend the scheme for a further year and as at 1st October 2015 a further 94 vouchers have been issued bringing the current total across the City to 297. The DCMS have now issued a notice of closure of the scheme therefore no further applications will be processed.

Demonstrator Hub

The Council was originally allocated £100,000 to create a Demonstrator Hub to provide help and advice on new technologies (e.g. VOIP and Cloud), connection speeds and a drop-in service for website health checks. The Demonstrator Hub was set up in partnership with the University of Portsmouth which provided cost savings. Unfortunately, demand was very low primarily as SME's have ready access to the information from other sources.

Wireless Concession

A fourth strand of Concessions which sought to engage the market in areas of innovation to complement the work on the wireless network was withdrawn at the time due to lack of market demand.

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3.4 An overall summary for the Super Connected Cities scheme is set out below:

	Target	Achievement
Connection Vouchers	160	297
Public Building Wifi	49	79
Growth Hub	1	1
Wireless Concession	0	0

3.5 Conclusions

Impact of the programme

The City Council significantly exceeded the targets set by DCMS against a national backdrop of delivering a challenging initiative.

The broadband connection voucher scheme will benefit a total of 297 SMEs/Charities within the authority boundaries of Portsmouth City Council and Fareham, Gosport and Havant Borough Councils. This should result in those businesses being able to grow and ultimately increase the economic growth of Portsmouth.

The wifi in public buildings project allowed the installation of superfast broadband in 79 sites across the City in partnership with Portsmouth University, allowing residents and visitors to Portsmouth to use My City WiFi, encouraging social inclusion and covering some areas that were previously NGA white areas.

Future Plans

The usage statistics show that the public access wifi is now becoming more accepted and thereby used across the City both by members of the public using various mobile devices but also our public sector partners as it provides a mechanism for them to connect via a secure link back to their own IT infrastructure.

In addition this now provides Portsmouth with the opportunity to utilise the wifi and the core infrastructure for other purposes:

- 1) The technology used to deliver MyCityWifi will enable other wifi services to run over the same infrastructure, this will facilitate easier connectivity as we move into the new world of Multi-Agency working, this is already being used to support Solent NHS Trust who will soon be occupying parts of the Brunel Wing within the Civic Offices.
- 2) There was consideration given to offering a Wireless Concession at the start of the scheme but there was a lack of market engagement and therefore this aspect was dropped from the programme. This situation has now changed and with the demands of 4G connectivity increasing rapidly and better technological solutions available the market has recently picked back up.

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Therefore we are now having discussions on what this aspect could provide for the residents of Portsmouth and potentially an income stream to the Authority.

- 3) The DCMS are now heavily promoting the concept of the 'Internet of Things' with potential grant funding opportunities in the future. This concept is based around the use of sensors connected via the internet to improve the lives of those living in the City. The DCMS are maintaining a focus on three streams - Health & Social Care, Transportation and Energy Reduction.

The University organised a workshop in August bringing together the Local Authority, LEP, and local SME's (whose line of business is technological innovation) to firstly define the issues facing the City in each of the three key areas defined above and then to note innovative ideas for addressing them. This information is being used to draft a business case for use in future funding applications.

- 4) There are other areas where the either the high speed broadband lines coupled with the wifi have offered solutions that otherwise would have been difficult or costly to provision, for example the Port have recently installed two kiosks in the reception offering visitors a quick and easy way to obtain further information on travel and event / attractions across the City, once installed they were simply connected to the wifi to get the latest information.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

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
Location Analytics	Appendix A
Map of MyCityWifi Locations	Appendix B

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Appendix A

Location Analytics - Daily Monthly Average Per Site V - Visitor C - Connected to Site		Daily Average		Total Monthly Footfall	
		V	C	V	C
Site	Site Category	V	C	V	C
Landport Community	Community/Youth	93	17	2790	510
Landport Adventure	Community/Youth	134	44	4020	1320
Millgate House	Community/Youth	21	7	630	210
John Pounds Centre	Community/Youth	151	14	4530	420
Portsea Adventure	Community/Youth	69	10	2070	300
Charles Dickens Centre	Community/Youth	189	89	5670	2670
Buckland Children's Centre	Community/Youth	79	23	2370	690
Fratton & Landport CC	Community/Youth	56	7	1680	210
Fratton Community #Centre	Community/Youth	130	37	3900	1110
Buckland Adventure Playground	Community/Youth	98	25	2940	750
Buckland Community Centre	Community/Youth	193	35	5790	1050
Noth End Children's Centre	Community/Youth	73	5	2190	150
New Road Day Centre	Community/Youth	50	8	1500	240
Stamshaw Adventure Playground	Community/Youth	51	3	1530	90
Stamshaw & Tipner CC	Community/Youth	96	11	2880	330
North Parade Children Centre	Community/Youth	96	15	2880	450
Anchorage Park CC	Community/Youth	89	13	2670	390
Stacey Centre	Community/Youth	58	17	1740	510
Baffins Community Centre	Community/Youth	1	0	30	0
Tangiers Road Children's Home	Community/Youth	65	5	1950	150
Carers Centre	Community/Youth	604	317	18120	9510
Havelock CC	Community/Youth	155	37	4650	1110
Loewood Centre	Community/Youth	26	7	780	210
Milton Children's Centre	Community/Youth	44	5	1320	150
Milton CC	Community/Youth	53	8	1590	240
Warren Avenue	Community/Youth	32	8	960	240
Pompey In The Com	Community/Youth	102	28	3060	840
Henderson Road Day Centre	Community/Youth	63	13	1890	390
Eastney Community Centre	Community/Youth	72	8	2160	240
Campion Place	Community/Youth	897	787	26910	23610
Somerstown Adventure Playground	Community/Youth	15	6	450	180
Somerstown Children's Centre	Community/Youth	73	14	2190	420
Somertown Hub	Community/Youth	229	150	6870	4500
Tipton House	Community/Youth	36	22	1080	660
Edgbaston House	Community/Youth	78	99	2340	2970
Highbury Community Centre	Community/Youth	69	5	2070	150



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Cosham Community Centre	Community/Youth	116	21	3480	630
Skye Children's Centre	Community/Youth	12	6	360	180
Paulsgrove Children's Centre	Community/Youth	43	2	1290	60
Hillside & Wymering CC	Community/Youth	64	22	1920	660
147 Allaway Avenue	Community/Youth	55	14	1650	420
Paulsgrove Adventure Playground	Community/Youth	31	13	930	390
Paulsgrove Community Centre	Community/Youth	66	15	1980	450
Civic	Council	4815	2410	144450	72300
Registry	Council	72	50	2160	1500
City Museum	Cultural	262	356	7860	10680
Square Tower	Cultural	29	5	870	150
Charles Dickens Birthplace	Cultural	4	1	120	30
Cumberland Museum	Cultural	207	89	6210	2670
D Day Museum	Cultural	418	125	12540	3750
Southsea Castle	Cultural	69	22	2070	660
Martime House	Health	72	10	2160	300
Shearwater House	Health	93	18	2790	540
Beechside Respite	Health	72	13	2160	390
Employment & Learning	Learning	187	22	5610	660
Russetts Lodge	Learning	52	12	1560	360
The Learning Place	Learning	148	9	4440	270
PCMI	Learning	63	13	1890	390
Portsmouth Gymnastics Centre	Leisure	406	61	12180	1830
Mountbatten Centre	Leisure	1072	166	32160	4980
Portsmouth Watersports	Leisure	69	16	2070	480
Wimbledon Park Sport Centre	Leisure	78	13	2340	390
Charter Sport Centre	Leisure	240	50	7200	1500
Central Library	Library	776	343	23280	10290
Carnegie Library	Library	213	119	6390	3570
North End Library	Library	62	13	1860	390
Alderman Lacey	Library	170	33	5100	990
Beddow Library	Library	59	12	1770	360
Southsea Library	Library	690	150	20700	4500
Cosham Library	Library	145	23	4350	690
Paulsgrove Library	Library	54	12	1620	360
Landport Housing Office	Social Housing	136	37	4080	1110
Bucklanfd Housing Office	Social Housing	188	33	5640	990
Paulsgrove Housing Office	Social Housing	157	29	4710	870
Wecock Farm Housing	Social Housing	46	6	1380	180
Leigh Park Housing Office	Social Housing	188	16	5640	480
Tipner P&R	Transport	98	16	2940	480
Ferry Port	Transport	2817	599	84510	17970
Totals				568620	206820