

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness
Subject:	Update on Full Fibre to The Home - City Fibre.
Date of meeting:	2 nd February 2023
Report by:	James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services
Report Author:	Meredydd Hughes, Assistant Director of Building Services
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by Cllr Darren Sanders, Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The report is for information only and provides the Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness with a further update on the Full Fibre to the Home City Fibre Infrastructure works and details the progress made across the Portsmouth City Council's housing property portfolio since the last update provided on 24th January 2022.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness places on record a note for thanks to the City Fibre and Building Services team for their continued work and extending the scope of the project to Portsmouth City Council's owned council housing blocks within Havant Borough Council's area.

3. Information Requested

- 3.1 The Cabinet member for Housing and Preventing Homelessness has requested an update on the progress of the Full Fibre to the Home infrastructure installation project by City Fibre to Portsmouth City Council's housing blocks in Portsmouth.

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4. Portsmouth City Council's housing properties. Full Fibre to the Home - Progress Update

- 4.1 Representative technical officers from Portsmouth City Council (PCC) and City Fibre continue to hold regular operational quarterly meetings. These meetings are chaired by PCC Building Services managers, and ensure the project stays on track, identifies risks, and provides an opportunity for the group to ensure the project plan goals are met by providing accurate updated data and information for management. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 3rd of February 2023.
- 4.2 The scheduled meetings provide both PCC and City Fibre an opportunity to discuss and agree the programme and progress of planned works, ensure the work is completed to the highest standards, are safe and compliant with all regulations and legislation in place and are carried out in a way that minimises disruption to residents. Feedback from all stakeholders is given and received and any necessary amendments to working arrangements and practices are made.
- 4.3 To date, the City Fibre operational team has received positive feedback from both PCC technical offices and PCC council housing residents for all aspects of their service delivery ranging from the pre-engagement survey work to the actual physical installation of City Fibre infrastructure.
- 4.4 Councillor Sanders is fully supportive of reducing digital exclusion for our residents and attended a recent Resident's Consortium meeting on 1st September 2022, where Jon Russell, City Fibre's Area Manager presented their plans to residents and Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services (HNB) officers.
- 4.5 We continue to highlight and promote the joint work being undertaken by PCC and City Fibre in installing FTTTH to Portsmouth City Council's housing properties and in the Spring 2022 edition of Husetalk, we asked to hear about the views of residents and how they had benefitted from full fibre connectivity. The Winter 2022 edition also included information for residents on broadband social tariffs. The Husetalk magazine is written for and distributed to our 14,500 council housing residents and leaseholders.
- 4.6 As of 12th December 2022, City Fibre had completed the FTTTH infrastructure installation to 283 Portsmouth City Council housing blocks. This had released 2384 individual dwellings capable of receiving Full Fibre and City Fibre confirmed they had passed their 2022 planned year's target of 2000 released properties. In addition, they have advised that 41 customers have signed up with Internet Service providers using the Full Fibre platform. City Fibre have plans to complete and release another 2000 council house dwellings in 2023. The list of blocks completed in 2022 and planned for first quarter 2023 is included in Appendix A.

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- 4.7 In terms of their overall £32 Million investment in Portsmouth. City Fibre have reported that after starting their city-wide project in March 2020 that they have completed infrastructure installation works passed 50,400 properties and that over 43,650 of them are now ready to be connected to the Full Fibre network.
- 4.8 City Fibre also report that out of their workforce of 14 staff, 70% reside within the PO1-7 postcode, and 109 employees of build partner CCN reside in the Portsmouth area. In addition, City Fibre advise that 25% of their employees working on our programme are ex-military personnel or reservists, and 7% are apprentices.
- 4.9 On 4th October 2022 Portsmouth City Council and City Fibre added a supplemental agreement to the original non-exclusive access wayleave to extend the rollout of the City Fibre's broadband infrastructure from within Portsmouth's boundaries to include Portsmouth City Council owned properties in Havant, Crookhorn and Wecock Farm. This work will sit alongside the works that City Fibre are installing to PCC's operational buildings and their roll out of full fibre infrastructure to all HRA communal blocks across the city and the Havant area.
- 4.10 The work in the Havant area will complement that being delivered within the Portsmouth boundary and will consist of installing the necessary duct work and cables to our blocks of flats to enable complete full fibre infrastructure so that internet service providers can utilise this capacity and provide an enhanced broadband service for residents.
- 4.11 A recent report commissioned by City Fibre and produced by consultancy Hatch, has identified the benefits that Portsmouth and Havant stand to gain from the rollout of future-proof full fibre infrastructure which is now well underway across both areas. [CityFibre network rollout to bring major economic boost to Portsmouth and Havant – Shaping Portsmouth](#)

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Council will continue to work closely with City Fibre in delivering the FFTTH programme to properties in Portsmouth up to the end of 2024.
- 5.2 Regular strategic and operational meetings will continue between the Council and City Fibre.
- 5.3 Both parties will continue to use a variety of communication platforms to ensure that all residents and stakeholders are kept up to date with programme and performance.

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5.4 Further reports on the installation programme progress will be brought back to the Housing and Preventing Homelessness Cabinet as appropriate.

6. Director of Finance Comments

6.1 There are no additional costs to the City Council's Housing Revenue Account because of this project, as stated in the main body of the report. Any costs associated with communications to residents and working with City Fibre will be treated as day-to-day expenses and will be met from existing resources.

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Signed by James Hill - Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Appendices: Update on Full Fibre to the Home - appendix A

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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<p>Update on Full Fibre to the Home</p> <p>Full Fibre To The Home - City Fibre. 25th January 2021.</p> <p>Update on Full Fibre to The Home - City Fibre. 24th January 2022.</p>	<p>Appendix A</p> <p>Full Fibre to Home - City Fibre.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)</p> <p>Update on Full Fibre to the Home - City Fibre.pdf (portsmouth.gov.uk)</p>