

Subject:	Greater Brighton Digital Strategy		
Date of Meeting:	15 October 2019		
Report of:	Chair, Greater Brighton Officer Programme Board		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Paul Brewer	Tel: 07881 323471
	Email:	paul.brewer@adur-worthing.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 At the Greater Brighton Economic Board (the Board) on 29 January 2019 the Board's Five Year Strategic Priorities paper was approved.
- 1.2 In the paper, five strategic themes are identified; International, Creative, Connected, Talented and Resilient, and there are two key priorities attached to each theme. A list of projects and initiatives to support delivery of the priorities over the next five years has also been developed and approved by the Board at the July 2019 meeting.
- 1.3 Under the Connectivity priority, activation of full-fibre infrastructure across the City Region has been identified as the key project with a target to increase the number of residential and business premises utilising full fibre connection across the city region and maximising its potential to facilitate economic growth.
- 1.4 To this end, this draft Digital Strategy should be seen as a statement of intent, which reviews activity already underway, identify areas at an early stage of development and provides recommendations for next steps.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Board notes the content and research findings of the draft Greater Brighton Digital Strategy (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That the Board notes the list of recommendations put forward in the draft Greater Brighton Digital Strategy and listed in section 5 of this cover paper.
- 2.3 That the Board approves the Greater Brighton Digital Strategy in its current working format and supports the recommendation of an action plan with responsibilities, timescales and resources allocated appropriately.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2018, the Board was presented with a paper from Mid Sussex District Council on the need for the installation of Full Fibre across the City Region to stimulate productivity and investment in the area.

- 3.2 The paper included two recommendations:
- Consider the development of full fibre digital infrastructure for the Greater Brighton area as a key priority within the Five Year Strategic Priorities as a part of the economic development approach for the sub region.
 - Enable the sub region to have a coherent narrative, and cooperate on the delivery of full fibre to support the Government’s Industrial Strategy
- 3.3 As referred to in 1.2, the Board approved the inclusion of the activation of full-fibre infrastructure across the City Region within the Five Year Strategic Plan. This assumes the installation of the fibre, something that is happening at various speeds across the region, as detailed in Section 4.
- 3.4 Full fibre enables the provision of ultrafast connectivity using optical fibre end-to-end with no legacy copper “last mile”. It provides speeds of 1000Mbps (gigabit) and well beyond. The UK Government has a target to connect 15 million premises with full fibre by 2025.
- 3.2 Full fibre provides the foundations for next generation digital services for businesses and residents, and is enshrined in the Greater Brighton Five Year Strategic Priorities, Gatwick 360⁰ and West Sussex County Council’s Digital Infrastructure Strategy. It will underpin 5G mobile networks and enable the much wider digital advances needed to meet the 4 Grand Challenges of the UK Industrial Strategy.

4 CURRENT ACTIVITY

FULL FIBRE

- 4.1 There is a significant amount of work underway across the city region for delivering full fibre. West Sussex district and borough councils have established a coordinating group, Everything Connects, chaired by Alex Bailey, Chief Executive at Adur & Worthing Councils. This group has supported the coordination and progress of many of the projects underway and is building strategic capacity for the digital agenda.
- 4.2 The draft strategy identifies that a multi-model approach is required for the City Region to reflect the diverse nature of the conurbations; from city (large urban areas) to smaller urban areas and then to rural communities. The draft strategy provides detail on each of the projects that are currently underway through the multi-model approach.
- 4.3 This multimode delivery model represents a very powerful approach to solving the challenges of providing ultrafast to all, helping leverage commercial investment using methods appropriate to context, and opening up potential for revenue generation.

5G

- 4.4 The emergence of 5G has been well documented. 5G will deliver average mobile download speeds of 130Mbps-240Mbps and, importantly, very low latency (delay), opening up a wide range of opportunities for smart manufacturing and

agriculture, traffic management and autonomous vehicles, remote monitoring and control solutions, artificial intelligence and holography.

4.5 However, 5G is reliant on widespread full fibre infrastructure for its masts and many small cells, underlining the strategic importance of delivering dense fibre networks as a critical step to being 5G Ready.

4.6 Despite the fact that the Digital Catapult Centre Brighton is home to the only UK 5G testbed located outside of a university, 5G is set to be some years away for Greater Brighton. The draft digital strategy acknowledges that there may be intermediate steps that will help deliver better mobile connectivity in the short to medium term. These are featured within the recommendations.

DIGITAL SERVICES

4.7 The draft Digital Strategy recognises that there will be a range of applications, services and capabilities that will make use of the digital infrastructure that is built. There will be some applications that will take some years to come forward, for example, driverless cars, but there are other applications such as digital social care solutions that must be ‘pulled forward’ with some urgency to address the immediate challenges associated with an ageing population.

4.8 Understandably given the range of pressures public services are under, there are significant capability, capacity and funding gaps that are already leading to missed opportunities across a range of areas. The draft strategy highlights the potential in a number of areas and what first steps might be taken. Undertaking research and building propositions in these areas will enable the Greater Brighton city region to be “bid ready”.

STRATEGY RECCOMENDATIONS

4.9 The following table seeks to summarise the recommendations contained in the draft strategy. Should the Board approve this digital strategy, the recommendations below will be developed into an action plan with ownership, timescales and resource implications.

Thematic area	Recommendation
Full Fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt the multimode fibre delivery model ● Agree ‘Everything Connects’ as the coordinating body between projects ● Participate in development work by Everything Connects of a legal vehicle for publicly owned duct, fibre and physical assets
5G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undertake granular 4G ‘not-spot’ analysis ● Engage with mobile operators on 5G futures ● Deliver the Brighton 5G outdoor test bed ● Support the creation of a Rural 5G proposition for investment ● Develop an aggregation model for local authority assets across the Coast to Capital & West Sussex

	area (e.g. lampposts), packaged and provided through the legal vehicle to telcos and mobile operators
Public Connectivity: Citizen WiFi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prototype the Citizen WiFi model in Worthing, to include possible 4G infill scheme
Internet of Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission a study to develop an Internet of Things (IoT) strategy for the city region, to incorporate open data standards and data privacy approaches
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map existing support for business, and commission a discovery project to understand the digital inclusion needs of businesses • Map needs for co-location and shared equipment, such as 3D printing • Map needs for edge data centres to support low latency applications, and 5G
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage retailers in the Citizen WiFi prototype, develop relationships
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map visitor websites and data, explore adoption of common data standards and publish open APIs • Work with Citizen WiFi on exemplar projects to build digital visitor experiences
Transport & Environmental Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission a report on intelligent transport systems • Feed requirements into the IoT study
Work and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene public sector bodies to discuss digital roles and skills gaps, engage learning providers • Map digital roles/skills gaps in commercial sectors
Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage health & social care providers to map their current digital programmes. Produce a report identifying opportunities for exemplar projects • Encourage adoption of OpenCommunity service directory data standards as they are published across all public service systems and services
Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map current digital inclusion provision and review the offer against current citizen needs • Explore options for funding and commissioning enhanced provision, aggregating demand across the city region

The Board will need to consider the resource requirements needed to drive this agenda forward, recognising the opportunity for Greater Brighton to become leaders in place-based digital strategy.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The following table seeks to summarise the recommendations contained in the draft strategy. Should the Board approve this digital strategy, the recommendations below will be developed into an action plan with ownership, timescales and resource implications. In many domains the Greater Brighton City Region is at an early stage, and in others it is among the most advanced in the UK. There is a need to grasp the opportunity and build a strategic approach that could see Greater Brighton as a leader in digital futures in the UK.

The draft strategy summarised in this report and found in full in Appendix 1 is the first step in the Board meeting its Connectivity priority as outlined in the Five Year Strategic Priorities.

6. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 6.1 Although there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, should the Board accept the draft strategy many of the action points will require funding and resources to be made available to deliver the strategy. Any future funding required will need to be identified and reported back to this Board in due course.

Finance Officer Consulted: Rob Allen

Date: 04/10/19

Legal Implications:

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Joanne Dougnaglo

Date: 04/10/19

Equalities Implications:

- 6.3 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report. The equalities implications will be addressed on a project by project basis.

Sustainability Implications:

- 6.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 6.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Greater Brighton Digital Strategy

Background Documents:

None