

## **Cabinet**

**6 February 2013**

### **Contract Award for the Digital Durham Programme**



**Key Decision CORP/R/13/01**

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#### **Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources**

**Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources**

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#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To request that delegated authority to award the Digital Durham contract for the provision of superfast broadband is granted to the Corporate Director Resources in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder Resources.

#### **Background**

- 2 Durham County Council, in partnership with Gateshead, Sunderland and the five Tees Valley authorities has started a procurement process to procure an infrastructure delivery partner to provide businesses, homes and communities across the programme areas with much improved broadband services.
- 3 The programme will provide all areas in County Durham with access to fast speed broadband within the next 5 years and will enhance business opportunities, improve educational activity and the quality of peoples' lives generally.

#### **Current Position**

- 4 Following a public consultation exercise during November 2012, the programme issued an Invitation to Tender (ITT) on 19 December 2012 which will allow the programme to meet the Government's Broadband Delivery UK's (BDUK) assurance process and be ready to contract on 1 April 2013.
- 5 Adherence to the timeline detailed above would lead to contract award to the successful bidder by mid-April 2013, which will be during the purdah period due to the election of Durham County Council members on 3 May 2013.
- 6 To avoid the risk of further delay to the programme and the possibility of losing the slot in the BDUK release schedule, it is requested that delegated authority to award the contract is granted.

## **Recommendation**

- 7 Cabinet is requested to agree that delegated authority to award the Digital Durham contract is granted to the Corporate Director Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Resources.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

Delays to the programme may put the BDUK £6.93 million grant at risk.

### **Staffing**

None

### **Risk**

Delays to the programme may put the BDUK £6.93 million grant at risk.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

An EqlA will be completed as part of the contract award

### **Accommodation**

None

### **Crime and Disorder**

None

### **Human Rights**

None

### **Consultation**

These issues have been discussed with the Digital Durham Strategic Board

### **Procurement**

Procurement is in line with the BDUK framework

### **Disability Issues**

None

### **Legal Implications**

These are covered within the BDUK framework.