



Superfast City: Member's Briefing September 2015

The Superfast City Programme (SCP) is making excellent progress across the two key workstreams that comprise the overall Programme: **Wired** (upgrading telecoms infrastructure to enable delivery of superfast broadband in the Square Mile) and **Wireless** (engaging with mobile network operators to procure a wireless concession to improve cellular and Wi-Fi coverage in the City).

Wired Workstream

The Programme team has met with a range of telecommunications providers to encourage investment in affordable, superfast broadband rollout across the City of London. The Programme will continue to work with such providers to drive infrastructure improvements, such as Fibre To The Internal Cabinet (FTTIC) in various Corporation owned office buildings and housing estates, as well as a broader roll out across the City. Project Sub, Resource Allocation and Policy and Resources Committees have approved £107K funding to support the City of London Corporation activities associated with the Wired Workstream Implementation Stage.

The sites listed below are progressing as follows:

- **Golden Lane:** City of London Corporation has approved wayleave applications for installation of three FTTIC cabinets. A phased go-live is likely to take place from Autumn 2015 with final go-live for the entire estate expected by January 2016;
- **Middlesex Street & 65 London Wall:** these sites are already live with superfast broadband take-up from 24 residents and 9 SMEs respectively;
- **Hamilton House:** BT are considering a new technology (variant of FTTIC) for this location;
- **Temple Chambers:** BT have submitted a wayleave to City of London Corporation, which is currently being processed. Installation is expected Autumn 2015.
- In July 2015 the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, Chamberlain and Chief Information Officer met with Gavin Pattison, CEO of BT Group. This was a very positive discussion and BT affirmed their commitment to improve the access to affordable superfast broadband within the Square Mile as part of the 2015/2016 BT development plans.
- Working with the Corporation BT have now developed these plans and intend to install 16 further cabinets as part of their 2015/2016 investment plan for the Square Mile.
- Virgin Media has an initiative entitled Project Lightning to improve the depth and breadth of their fibre network to include key urban and rural locations;
- This is a considerable commitment by Virgin representing an investment of £3 billion across the UK. Following positive discussions, Virgin Media has agreed that Project Lightning will conduct a pilot within the Square Mile.

- NDA (non-disclosure agreements) have now been signed between City of London Corporation and Virgin Media to progress this endeavour.
- The SME GLA Voucher uptake now stands at 425 (up from 382).

Those Members who represent specific Wards impacted by such developments will be contacted directly with further details and timetable for rollout as they become available.

A communications and engagement plan has been implemented to highlight the efforts and accomplishments of the Programme on behalf of the City of London Corporation. Future communications will also ensure residents and businesses are informed about forthcoming developments and the services available to them once information becomes available.

Wired Workstream Outreach Activity

In addition to the above, the Superfast City Programme team recently visited the Future City Glasgow Programme team. Glasgow secured £24 million from Innovate UK in 2013 to explore innovative ways to use technology and data to make life in the city of Glasgow safer, smarter and more sustainable. The visit was very productive and a follow up visit for senior Force and Business representatives is being planned for late 2015. Such outreach activities have a wider strategic benefit to the City of London, promoting knowledge sharing and assisting the City in shaping the strategic vision in programmes such as One Safe City, Ring of Steel, exploration of smarter street lighting and development of joint command and control centres. This Programme is in a unique position to facilitate discussions and partnerships in this area, enabling the achievement of operational/technological benefits (e.g. type of CCTV cameras to deploy) and future strategic activity in the 'smart city' field (e.g. the environmental and business benefits of smarter street lighting and use of City data). Further information can be found at <http://futurecity.glasgow.gov.uk/>.

Wireless Workstream

The wholesale concession procurement is now well underway. The market response has been positive and the initial phase has resulted in a strong shortlisted of candidates. We will now enter the competitive dialogue phase with these candidates, with a view to awarding the contract in Summer 2016.

Parliamentary activity

A series of parliamentary activities has ensured that the City is visible in continuing to pressure Ministers and officials to improve broadband speeds in the City. The City Remembrancer's Office has coordinated three debates in the House of Commons and one in the House of Lords, as well as providing support and information in relation to a parliamentary question. The City's MP, Mark Field, has collaborated with officers to highlight broadband's importance to business – resulting in several positive newspaper reports. More generally, the debates have received support from large numbers of MPs and peers, demonstrating that the City's advocacy on broadband resonates across London and the rest of the UK. This activity helps to drive the political and policy debate.

The debates have generated positive leader columns and reports in the London Evening Standard. In addition, the City has been represented at parliamentary meetings and discussions and also has strong links into the newly established All Party Parliamentary Group on Fintech (and into the soon to be formed Group on broadband). As part of its activity with the Fintech APPG (which has included within its aims and objectives a reference to improving broadband connectivity), the City facilitated a well-attended launch event in the House of Commons at which the City's activity in the sector received wide praise. The event was part of Innovate Finance's Technology Week.

For any further queries about the Superfast City Programme please contact:

Neil Ford, Programme Lead, Superfast City Programme

Neil.ford@cityoflondon.gov.uk

neil.ford@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk

More about the Superfast City Programme:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/superfastcity

On Twitter: @superfastcity