

SUBJECT:	CoCoRE 5G TESTBED
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	29th JULY 2020
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To provide an update on the 'Connected Communities in the Rural Economy' (CoCoRE), 5G Testbed pathfinder project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To request approval to proceed with the CoCoRE 5G Testbed pathfinder project as a partner with Welsh Government as Lead Body.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 In September 2019, [Cabinet](#) approved the Digital Infrastructure Action Plan. The approval decision was based on recommendations that the Council 'fully consider any prospects to engage with funding opportunities to install 5G infrastructure within the County where there is a basis of evidence of need'. This would involve opening up the County as a regional testbed and pathfinder for the variety of applications likely to be developed as a result.

3.2 On 20th February 2020, the Council received notice of the approval of CoCoRE, a 5G testbed in South East Wales to connect rural communities across Monmouthshire and semi-urban communities in Blaenau Gwent, subsequently a report was presented to [Cabinet](#) for information on the 4th March 2020.

3.3 CoCoRE is designed to demonstrate how 5G technology can be a force for good for businesses and citizens and constitutes Phase One of a wider ambition for a proposed Wales 5G programme being led by Welsh Government. The project will explore new ways that 5G can offer a speedier connection and advanced technology to boost business growth and productivity, improve the lives of people in rural areas and maximise the productivity benefits of new technologies. 5G therefore has the capability in the future, to transform the way the Council interacts with critical services for example, energy, water, transport and healthcare and will also drive the adoption of new technologies such as driverless cars, remote healthcare and the 'smart' devices that are increasingly used in homes and at work.

3.7 CoCoRE presents a real opportunity for the County to support innovation in IoT devices, leveraging the region's compound semiconductor sector. Activity will directly address the following rural challenges and opportunities in Monmouthshire:

- **Tourism:** Scalable Augmented Reality experience for a Sensitive Site and Preservation & Safety specifically at Raglan Castle; and
- **Diverse Rural Economy:** Farms Security & Safety and Farmer Mental Wellbeing & Isolation

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will be focussing on Integrated Multi-Modal Transport i.e. (i.e. Smart Buses & Bus Stops and Smart Car Parks). Solving some of

these issues will provide enormous opportunities to increase the region’s competitive and social position.

3.8 The overall aim of CoCoRE is to create a digital environment over a meaningful semi-urban and rural area that benefits from high quality digital services, both fibre and 5G. The location of the scheme will be focused around a ‘Place’ concept in Ebbw Vale and Monmouthshire, where one ‘Hub’ location is a Semi-Urban location with a large rural component close-by.

The initial outcomes expected include:

- 5G coverage in Monmouthshire and Blaenau Gwent;
- Management via Self-sustaining Special Purpose Vehicles providing missing skills and high value jobs;
- Commercial IoT device manufacture & supply;
- Scalable and transferable Use Cases; and
- A clear investment model for 5G deployments in Wales.

3.9 CoCoRE is a partnership that includes Welsh Government, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Tech Valleys Programme, Cardiff University, Bristol University and private sector partners Cisco, Appy Way, Utterberry, Communication Service Providers and Local SMEs.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 The Assessment demonstrates compliance with the well-being five ways of working, supports the well-being goals and associated activities are expected to have a positive impact on all groups and people with protected characteristics.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 An options appraisal has been undertaken in Table One below.

Table One: Options Appraisal

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do nothing	None identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to be unable to influence the future direction of 5G deployment in the County and therefore may not get the full benefits of the initiative; • Lack of early investment in 5G may cause subsequent delays to large scale commercial roll-out and reduce local economic impact. 	Continuing disjointed delivery of digital infrastructure leading to further missed opportunities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputational risk if a decision to proceed was revoked. 	
Proceed with the CoCoRE 5G Testbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council would gain a stake in the future direction of the 5G offer and an ability to shape test bed activities; • Council investment could secure 5G bandwidth, which could then be used to support businesses and public service delivery; • Benefits could include: job safeguarding; high value job creation opportunities; new business start-ups; productivity gains for existing SMEs; IoT device development opportunities; proposals to address current market failure; a 5G platform for future deployment and revenue generation, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of ROI to be determined. • Further details regarding governance, asset ownership, etc. to be clarified. 	

6. REASONS

- 6.1 Monmouthshire currently lags behind the rest of the Cardiff Capital Region with highest digital deprivation rates of circa 12% which is unacceptable, it puts our communities, businesses and indeed Wales at a severe disadvantage, particularly given Monmouthshire's proximity to the economic powerhouses of the South West, Gloucestershire and West Midlands. There is therefore, a strategic imperative to ensure that Monmouthshire has sufficient digital connectivity to maximise our economic growth and wealth creation capability, and increase our productivity in order to increase the GVA for the county and the country.
- 6.2 The Council has previously taken a decision to 'fully consider any prospects to engage with funding opportunities to install 5G infrastructure within the County where there is a basis of evidence of need'. A conscious note will be made of any changes to legislation regarding any potential health impacts.
- 6.3 5G infrastructure development and testbed schemes are a high political and economic priority for the UK and Welsh Government. 5G, alongside full fibre, will form the core and edge of modern place-based infrastructure to drive the economy and deliver social benefits. Existing digital infrastructure in Monmouthshire and the wider Cardiff Capital region is inadequate and has historically lagged that available in the UK including Superfast & Ultrafast Broadband and wireless technologies, particularly 4G and now 5G. Having strong digital coverage for Internet and Data services drives a host of socio/economic opportunities. The CoCoRE project which forms part of the wider Welsh Government 5G strategy and intervention represents an opportunity to not only catch up and keep pace, but exceed the UK deployment of Next Generation Wireless, (5G).

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 CoCoRE is 50% matched funded with £5M coming from the DCMS Rural Connected Communities Fund and £5M from funding partners over five years. The resource implication for the Authority is £242k which will be in the form of 'in kind' match funding via Officer time and therefore no additional budget resource will be required.

8. **CONSULTEES**

Previous consultees of the overarching Digital Infrastructure Action Plan have included:

- Monmouthshire communities;
- Cabinet;
- Senior Leadership Team;
- Economy and Development Select Committee

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

10. **AUTHOR:**

Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Animation

11. **CONTACT DETAILS:** E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk Mob: 07557 190969

Appendix B



Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact)

<p>Name of the Officer Cath Fallon</p> <p>Phone no: 07557 190969 E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Co-CORE 5G Rural Testbed</p>
<p>Name of Service: Enterprise</p>	<p>Date: Future Generations Evaluation 10th July 2020</p>

NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc.

1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Improved digital infrastructure improves opportunities for education and training via access to on line resources, universities and training courses.</p>	<p>There is a strategic imperative to ensure that Monmouthshire has sufficient NGA connectivity to maximise our economic growth and wealth creation capability, and increase our productivity in order to increase the GVA for the county and the country.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Improved digital infrastructure can raise awareness of biodiversity and climate change issues and encourage positive participation.</p>	<p>Improved digital infrastructure can also enable citizens to work from home thus reducing carbon emissions.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Given the move towards tele health care, improvements to digital infrastructure presents opportunities for digital healthcare delivery and helps raises awareness of the benefits of physical activity.</p>	<p>Improved digital infrastructure can provide the opportunity to raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity, classes for which can be delivered direct to citizen's homes via the Internet.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Improved digital access is proven to reduce social isolation and promote independence.</p>	<p>Improved digital infrastructure is also proven to encourage wider participation in community and voluntary work.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Improved digital access can raise awareness of these issues and promote positive activity.</p>	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Improved digital access can raise awareness of culture, heritage and the welsh language and encourage positive participation.</p>	
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>Improved digital access can enable access to on line learning resources to enable them to fulfill their potential, whatever their background.</p>	

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The technologies deployed in some circumstances will provide a short term fix e.g. wireless until a longer term solution e.g. Fibre to the Premise can be deployed.</p>	<p>Improved digital access will ensure that Monmouthshire citizens are able to embrace future technologies and opportunities.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>A partnership approach will be undertaken to ensure the best solution for communities can be found. This is likely to be with Welsh Government and a range of private sector network providers.</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Citizens are invited to get involved by participating in local meetings with potential broadband providers or by contacting Monmouthshire Enterprise directly.</p>	<p>Further information can be found here: http://monmouthshire.biz/digital-monmouthshire/for-residents/</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>A situational analysis of Superfast Broadband Next Generation Access (NGA) coverage in the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), based on the OMR/SAPC undertaken prior to the Superfast Cymru Phase 2 (SFC2) Procurement has been undertaken. This paints a stark picture in terms of the current lack of coverage in Monmouthshire, in comparison to our other nine Local Authority partner.</p>	<p>Additional resources will be deployed to produce a dynamic model indicating current proposed interventions, timescales and premises targeted, leaving those requiring further interventions. Following receipt of the model, potential solutions can be costed and brought forward to the Council's Investment Committee for consideration.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Access to digital communication technologies can reduce carbon emissions, rural isolation and rural poverty. It can also provide access to learning which can increase skills and subsequently wealth and overall well-being.</p>	

3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Improved digital access reduces the barriers to access for people with protected characteristics.	Any negative impacts can be reduced if suitable safeguarding strategies are put in place.	Affordable and accessible digital solutions will be identified to maximize opportunities for all.
Disability	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above. In addition, the proposals will take the needs of the disabled population into consideration during the development phase.
Gender reassignment	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Marriage or civil partnership	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Race	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Religion or Belief	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Sex	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Sexual Orientation	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above
Welsh Language	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	In addition, all signage will be compliant with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 as specified in the Standards applied to Monmouthshire
Poverty	As per Age Line Above	As per Age Line above	As per Age Line Above

- 4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?** For more information please see the guidance <http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

Safeguarding	<i>During the delivery of the programme of activities, safeguarding will be at the forefront to ensure that any future service delivery promotes the well-being of children and vulnerable adults, preventing them from being harmed and protecting those who are at risk of abuse and neglect.</i>	As above	As above
Corporate Parenting	<i>During the delivery of this programme of activities the needs of any 'looked after' children will be considered to ensure any future service delivery protects their welfare.</i>	As above	As above

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The Caldicot Vision document (February 2018) and various stakeholder engagement activities. In addition the CCR Regeneration Plan has been founded upon the following:

- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act;
- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act;
- Prosperity for All;
- Growth & Competitiveness Commission Report Review and Recommendations Page 22;
- Cardiff Capital Region "Powering the Welsh Economy";
- Equality Act 2010; and
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The Assessment demonstrates compliance with the well-being five ways of working, supports the well-being goals and associated activities are expected to have a positive impact on all groups and people with protected characteristics.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	Six monthly via Economy and Development Select Committee
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9. VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Cabinet	29 th July 2020	