

## **CCC Strategy Development Guidelines**

Development of the digital infrastructure strategy has addressed the following questions as set out in the council's strategy development guide:

- a. *What is the rationale for the strategy?* Digital infrastructure is required to deliver the council's Corporate Priority outcomes and a strategy is required to provide digital connectivity to all residents, businesses and visitors to Cumbria.
- b. *Which of the Council's customers is the strategy aimed at?* An important part of the digital infrastructure strategy is digital inclusion to ensure that all citizens have access to online applications and services. Equality of access to digital services is also aligned with the digital skills agenda as outlined by the Cumbria LEP.
- c. *What issues are the outcomes of the strategy looking to address?* The aspiration of the programme that the digital infrastructure strategy creates is to maximise the number of gigabit capable fixed line connections to premises across Cumbria, to make 4G services available to all and to leverage the opportunity provided by new 5G services as they evolve.
- d. *Do customers or partners need to be involved in the development of the strategy?* The programme will liaise with community and business representatives, suppliers of digital infrastructure, central government, district authorities and other partner organisations as appropriate such as the Cumbria LEP and the Lake District National Park Authority. (See section 8, Stakeholder Engagement.)
- e. *Is there any national or regional drivers that need to be considered in the development of the strategy?* The strategy takes into account UK Government policy as set out in the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review published in July 2018 [see Appendix 3]:

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/future-telecoms-infrastructure-review>)

and other UK Government guidance:

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/digital-strategy-and-leadership#digital-infrastructure-strategy>)

The digital infrastructure strategy is also an enabler of the council's digital transformation plans and digital strategy and is aligned with the digital strategy work underway at the CLEP.

- f. *Does customer engagement and consultation need to be carried out?* Informal engagement and consultation has already taken place and the feedback is very clear in that digital infrastructure is critical going forward and should be made available to all.
- g. *Does a health or equalities impact assessment need to be carried out?* No, although it is important to recognise that delivery of the strategy provides digital inclusion so that no group of people are left behind.
- h. *What is the vision?* To provide high quality mobile and fixed line connectivity to all residents, businesses and visitors to Cumbria as quickly as possible, securing the necessary funding to ensure that no one is left behind.
- i. *What are the aims, objectives and outcomes of the strategy (including key partners)?* Aims<sup>1</sup>: to ensure that everyone has access to fixed line superfast services of at least 24Mbps download; to maximise the availability of full fibre to the premise infrastructure; to ensure that everyone has access to 4G mobile services both indoors and out and to ensure that Cumbria County Council leads the development of 5G technology within the Borderlands

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the delivery of fixed line superfast services and 4G to all will require central government funding not yet secured.

Partnership through working with other partners. **Objectives:** these are aligned with the Digital Borderlands strategic objectives referenced in the Background section above. **Outcomes:** delivery of superfast services at least in line with the UK average, currently 96.8%<sup>2</sup>; delivery of full fibre to the premise<sup>3</sup> infrastructure at least in line with the UK average, currently 16.2% (or 26.4% including DOCSIS 3.1 cable although no such infrastructure is deployed in Cumbria) but increasing rapidly; provision of 4G to 95% of the Cumbria landmass in line with the Shared Rural Network UK target and to be actively working on tests and trials of 5G services in Cumbria. (See Table 1.)

- j. *What member engagement has taken place?* Discussions have taken place with the deputy leader, portfolio holder and the leader has been provided with a bullet briefing on 18 November 2019.
- k. *What governance sign off is needed? (CMT Cabinet, Partnership Body)* Sign off will be needed from DMT, CMT, lead members and TISG, but further stakeholder engagement will take place. (See sections 6, Governance and Resources and 8, Stakeholder Engagement.)
- l. *Who will be responsible for delivering the strategy?* The Connecting Cumbria team led by the senior digital champions (see section 6, Governance and Resources).
- m. *What resources are needed to ensure delivery?* (See section 6, Governance and Resources.)
- n. *Is a communications and embedding plan needed?* Yes, and ongoing communication and engagement will take place with all relevant stakeholders on both the launch of the strategy and as its objectives are delivered. (See section 8, Stakeholder Engagement.)
- o. *Who will be responsible for monitoring the strategy?* The Connecting Cumbria Programme Board.
- p. *How will the strategy be reviewed?* By the Connecting Cumbria Strategic Management Board.
- q. *How often will the strategy be reviewed?* The digital infrastructure strategy will be reviewed and updated each year and/or in line with the availability of funding.
- r. *Who will the performance of the strategy need to be reported to? (CMT, Cabinet, Scrutiny)* Existing governance structures and reporting will include the performance of the digital infrastructure strategy and progress towards its desired outcomes.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: thinkbroadband.

<sup>3</sup> Further deployment of DOCSIS 3.1 cable technology could also provide gigabit capable infrastructure.