



Titel
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Connected Neighbourhood Forum

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**European Community
European Regional
Development Fund**



Interreg North Sea Region

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Connected Neighbourhood Forum

Country/Region

England, Norfolk (and other DC10+ areas)

Issue

Research carried out as part of the DC10+ response to OFCOM, the East of England Economic Strategy and the Norfolk Open Link project have shown that in depth understanding of local demand and opportunities for broadband is a key way to support its development.

The DC10+ sponsored Connected Neighbourhood Forum has been investigating the best way to generate this and how to use it effectively with local charters and demand assessment tools.

Keywords

Broadband, social inclusion, spatial development

Approach/Strategies

A number of the DC10+ members – Norfolk, Hull, Manchester, Milton Keynes and Nottingham, have been active in developing local broadband initiatives. As part of this common issues arose including the difficulty in demonstrating demand to persuade telecommunications companies to invest. At the same time local research was showing potential demand in new industrial, commercial and residential developments and regeneration schemes but there is no clear commercial or regulatory incentives for development companies to provide these and telco's are unwilling to invest in speculative infrastructure.

The Connected Neighbourhoods Forum was developed by the DC10+ group and the Broadband Stakeholder Group to pull together analysis tools and techniques to identify demand in a way that can support investment and to lobby government and industry to collaborate and support local level investment.

Linked to this the DC10+ group and the department for Communities and Local Government's Digital Inclusion Team have been developing and Digital Inclusion Mapping service to pull together information from Public, Private and Academic organisations on broadband availability, take up, need and demand and present it in GIS map format to assist in this process.

So far the CNF has developed a draft charter to be signed by local and central government, developers, telco's and local stakeholders for new or redevelopment areas to build in a broadband infrastructure and jointly market this to business and residents alongside the development of public sector service delivery, learning etc via that network. This has been signed off by the steering group which includes telco's and central government as well as local authorities, NGO's and academic experts.

The next task for the group is to develop a methodology and tools to map and forecast demand. In Norfolk this will build on the INTERREG funded LoG-IN project and its ability to map information down to a local level and will incorporate information from the Digital Inclusion Mapping Project (due

to be live June 08) as well as local socio-economic, land use and business activity information.

The group and its online forum is also being used to debate issues raised by the BIRD project.

Results

The Connected Neighbourhood Charter is available on the BIRD website and the two sites are linked. There will also be links to the Digital Inclusion Mapping service when this is available. The specification for this is available on the BIRD website.

Conclusions and Summary Recommendations

A clear understanding of local potential demand is a crucial weapon in encouraging broadband development. The Connected Neighbourhood Forum offers a template to enable local authorities to do this work and work in partnership

Confirmation of publishing allowness

Location and Date

Name, Stamp and Signature



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