

Broadband Steering Group Meeting

26 July 2007

Present:

Paul Adams
Ann Carey
Kurt Frary

Apologies:

Paul Fisher
Sandra Dineen
Jamie Warren
David Dukes
Tim Anderson

1. Norfolk Open Link Project

Usage: 20,000 connections for June – note this is down from previous months, most likely reasons are technical upgrade work has affected service availability and end of term for UEA and City College students.

Service availability – Synetrix are currently implementing a programme of firmware upgrades and installing new antennae in order to address performance problems. Working closely with Planning & Transportation and Norwich City Engineer's Dept as much of work requires access to street furniture. NOL 'help line' has been transferred to ensure that agreed levels of availability are achieved. Formal change control has been raised with ADIT.

EEDA claim – claim for remaining grant has been submitted and accepted however there is an issue with project outputs as these are normally expressed as 'number of new jobs created'. Working with EEDA and DTI to devised and agree more appropriate measures for this project as these will need to be reported when project completes.

Consultancy support – brief has been sent to several external organisations who have experience in this area, responses due next week. Need to ensure that viable options are identified and available to present to cabinet so decision can be made early Jan 2008. Charles Clarke MP is taking a close interest in the project and has asked to be kept informed.

Bus trail – decision to proceed has been put on hold until funding requirements for external consultancy are known.

Communications – NOL had stand at Norfolk Show and attracted much interest, AC/KF continue to be involved with presentations and conferences as there is a high level of interest in project. There has been one FOI request

following the recent Panorama programme, this was from the Evening News who then published an article on the project which was generally positive.

South Norfolk rural wireless project – over 20 sites now live however difficulties with sub contractor continues to cause problems in achieving agreed number of sites. JW (South Norfolk Project Manager) monitoring closely.

2. Economic Development Competition

Monitoring development of 3 projects which were awarded grants, issues with availability of NOL wireless service in parts of city have been reported and this is being resolved by current upgrade work programme.

3. Advanced Content Centre Project

EEDA have confirmed funding provision however agreed that NCC will lead on initial piece of work to confirm that original scope/business case still valid.

4. AOB

No items

5. Next meeting dates

To be advised