

## **Local Joint Committee Briefing – February 2012**

Shropshire Council (with Telford & Wrekin Council) has been allocated £8.2 million by BDUK to improve broadband within Shropshire. Shropshire Council has also committed a further £8.2 million to improve rural broadband in Shropshire.

To access the BDUK funding a local broadband plan had to be submitted and signed off by BDUK. The local broadband plan contains detailed information on the project including aims, evidence of need, benefits and risks.

The local broadband plan for Shropshire was one of four to be signed off by BDUK at the end of January 2012. This sign off is excellent news because it means that Shropshire can now proceed with completing a procurement for a private sector partner to invest in, and deliver the improved broadband infrastructure. BDUK have advised that our provisional procurement slot will be June / July this year and a technical partner will be in place by the end of this year.

The project aims to

- Enable 100% of Shropshire population to access standard broadband at a minimum of 2mbps by the end of 2015
- Provide as much superfast broadband delivered via fibre in Shropshire for the money available by the end of 2015
- Support Shropshire businesses and residents in using and embracing broadband as part of everyday life
- Create an open infrastructure to encourage competition in the market
- Deliver a structured demand stimulation programme which will demonstrate the economic and social benefits that faster broadband brings.

The project team are now preparing for the procurement and associated state aid applications. The results of the recent business and residents surveys are being used in this process to ensure that the solution meets the needs of Shropshire residents and businesses.

Part of the procurement will be evidencing that there is a strong demand for broadband in Shropshire. To ensure that we are able to show high levels of support and take up for improved broadband a demand registration programme will be launched next month. Full details of how individuals, communities and businesses can support this will be sent to local members, parish councils and via the various business networks nearer the launch.

If you require further information please contact Alison Brock on 01743 252205 or [alison.brock@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.brock@shropshire.gov.uk)

