



CABINET MEMBER DECISION

31 AUGUST 2020

WORCESTERSHIRE 5G – PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABILITY AND 5G CREATE APPLICATIONS

Relevant Cabinet Member
Dr K A Pollock

Relevant Officer
Strategic

Airbus and AMRC to disseminate learning. Building these relationships and a strong reputation for leadership in the 5G space regionally and nationally are key in developing the future customer marketplace to sustain Worcestershire 5G, attract inward investment and drive the local economy.

26. The application has been submitted to DCMS. It will include private sector contributions and a request of grant funding of up to £4m. If shortlisted, there would be an interview process with DCMS and if successful the next steps would be to finalise and agree the Grant and Collaboration Agreement with DCMS and partners for the project, expected to commence in October 2020 to run until March 2022. Should both bids be successful there will be a discussion with DCMS around any efficiencies that would be achieved.

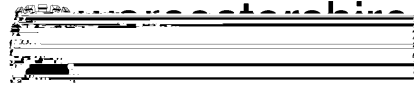
Risk evaluation

27. The risks identified at the commencement of the current 5G projects remain, summarised in Appendix A. T

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda, background papers and minutes for the meeting of Cabinet, Agenda Item 6,
held on 28 August 2020. (The documents are available on the Council website under the heading 'Agenda and Minutes' - Tw 8.5)



Appendix A

The risks below largely existed at the outset of the first project, these have been managed through this project and will continue to be managed through the newly proposed projects.

Risk	Mitigation
Impact of situation if funding is withdrawn / clawed back / deemed not State Aid compliant	<p>A dedicated programme resource and professional financial resource are secured to support the project.</p> <p>A Collaboration Agreement / Grant Agreement will be put in place</p> <p>At the outset of Phase 1, State Aid Guidance was sought from Department of BEIS, their view concurred with view of County Council legal, that the Grant Funding is compatible aid for a research and development project within the "experimental development" category of Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation. The same Guidance is being followed for the proposed projects.</p>
Ensuring Value for Money (VfM) across all partners in an innovative space with established supply chains	<p>Specific requirements will be set out in the 'Collaboration Agreement' to seek value for money. Private sector partners also contribute their own funding at either 60%, 50% or 40% ratio, therefore commercial practices lead to VfM being sought.</p> <p>In areas that only one supplier is suitable due to either 'latest technology' and 'timescales' required the appropriate VfM assurances will be sought.</p>

Risk	Mitigation
<p>cases not deliver on expected benefits, how is this viewed</p>	<p>partners will have a seat on the relevant project boards and are expected to engage in regular coordination / agile meetings to minimise the risk of ongoing concerns / issues.</p> <p>Partners recognise this is a Research and Development project and that not all applications will work as expected. It is recognised that 'failure' may be an acceptable outcome provided enough learning is provided, to avoid similar issues in future.</p>
<p>Reputational / concerns raised as to safety of radio frequencies used by 5G applications</p>	<p>Please see information in 'Public Health Impact Assessments in report.</p> <p>The network will be managed by technology partner BT who have substantial experience of deploying radio networks and complying with industry and governmental guidelines.</p> <p>Having considered a number of reports, including most recently the second edition of the Institution of Engineering and Technology Guide "Allaying health concerns regarding 5G and exposure to radio waves" published July 2020</p>

Risk	Mitigation
	<p>available to meet the requirements of Industry 4.0 and provide the necessary facilities to support our associate technology accelerator projects.</p> <p>Our infrastructure partner selection and diversification approach places the bid in a strong position to step forward as standards and cyber security expectations mature, and the market delivers new solutions.</p> <p>The project will remain compliant with relevant Ofcom and National Cyber Security Centre guidance and policy.</p>
<p>Underestimation of the task of managing a complex collaboration.</p>	<p>The Council is experienced in the role of consortium lead and will be supported by dedicated project management. Driving our external affiliations with BT, other partners and the wider UK5G ecosystem, provides the opportunity to extend the reach of the project management and business development resources in the programme.</p> <p>Our approach to delivery allows a managed transition of the platform under BT's technology leadership, and consortium leadership provided by the Council, with initial use cases undertaken on a least change basis using current technology.</p>
<p>Continued Covid-19 related operational disruption</p>	<p>The Council's economic development team are leading on economic recovery, providing advice to business re safe operation and social distancing, already applied in Malvern Hills Science Park.</p> <p>Timing of external spend commitments and use case delivery will be assessed to reflect further government guidance, taking a realistic view of potential impact and the outlook over the period of the plan-6.6 (l)2.6 (ookej -0.013 7 >>BDC -0.002 Tc 8)5 (m)-6g7d.6 (n)]T</p>