

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD

<b>Decision Title:</b> Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) pilot
<b>Decision reference number:</b> 03.01.22
<b>Decision date:</b> 20 January 2022
<p><b>Background / reason for decision:</b></p> <p>In January 2021, the Combined Authority Committee granted delegated authority to the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to take a decision on the use of the £1m Innovation for Renewal and Opportunity influence fund in consultation with the Chief Executives of the West of England Combined Authority constituent councils.</p> <p>Working closely with Business &amp; Skills Directors across the constituent councils and the telecoms industry, the Combined Authority has successfully secured the DCMS funding required to deliver a West of England Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) pilot.</p> <p>The pilot is expected to deliver the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to digital connectivity for residents and business due to accelerated roll-out of wireless networks across the region.</li> <li>• Faster deployment of digital infrastructure as local councils can more easily share data with mobile companies, improve access to publicly owned sites, and speed up site acquisition.</li> <li>• Lower costs and efficiencies for local authorities and network providers by making the transactions between public sector location asset owners and telecommunications companies simpler and quicker.</li> <li>• Increased utilisation of publicly owned assets in line with community interests and place-making ambitions</li> <li>• Building public sector expertise and capacity to support the rapid deployment of telecommunications infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Options considered:</b></p> <p>Not applicable in relation to this specific decision, i.e. this was the option considered.</p>
<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Approval was given to an allocation of £250,000 from the Influence Fund to the costs of the DCIA pilot.</p>

**Consultation:**

The Chief Executives of the West of England Combined Authority constituent councils were consulted on these proposals.

**Officer making decision:** Patricia Greer

**Position:** Chief Executive, West of England Combined Authority

**Report / appendices / background documents:**

None