AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

TITLE: CONNECTING CAMBRIDGESHIRE BROADBAND UPDATE

Committee: Development & Transport Committee

Date: 6th September 2012

Author: Economic Development Officer - Doug Perkins

[M93]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Update on the progress of the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to note the progress of the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband project.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Connecting Cambridgeshire is the name for the project to bring access to superfast broadband to at least 90% of homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with better connections for all other premises.

3.2 The project is taking a dual track approach of procurement and demand registration to achieve faster broadband access to support economic growth and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by influencing and intervening in the market.

3.3 The formal procurement process - to select a single supplier, or consortium of suppliers, to make a significant investment in rolling out superfast broadband for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from 2013 - is on track to be completed by the end of 2012. Five candidates have been invited to participate in the formal competitive dialogue process as bidders from July to September 2012, with final bids due by the end of October 2012.

3.4 The Open Market Consultation to define the predicted 'white' intervention areas, which will be eligible for intervention funding, has been completed. (Please see the attached map for black, grey and white areas within East Cambridgeshire.)

3.5 Latest figures show that across Cambridgeshire over 13,600 people have registered their demand for broadband online and on paper since the campaign launched in early May. Among counties with a demand registration

campaign underway Cambridgeshire is now top of the table for the percentage of registrations in areas where broadband coverage is poor.

3.6 Within East Cambridgeshire the demand registration campaign has reached over 1,400 registrations (10% of the county total). Within 'white' intervention areas demand registration is over 1,000 (11% of the county total) and 16 broadband champions have been recruited (26% of the county total) to help promote the campaign within their local communities.

4.0 TIMETABLE

4.1 The Connecting Cambridgeshire project is currently on track to meet the project milestones set out in the timetable below:

Demand Registration Campaign	May - Dec 2012
Procurement process	Jan - Dec 2012
- Final Tenders	29 Oct 2012
- Recommended Supplier	28 Nov 2012
- Contract Award	17 Dec 2012
Implementation and rollout	2013 - 2015

4.2 Promotion of the Connecting Cambridgeshire demand registration campaign will continue until December 2012 with further engagement and targeting of communities within 'white' intervention areas, alongside businesses, residents, schools, and community groups across East Cambridgeshire.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

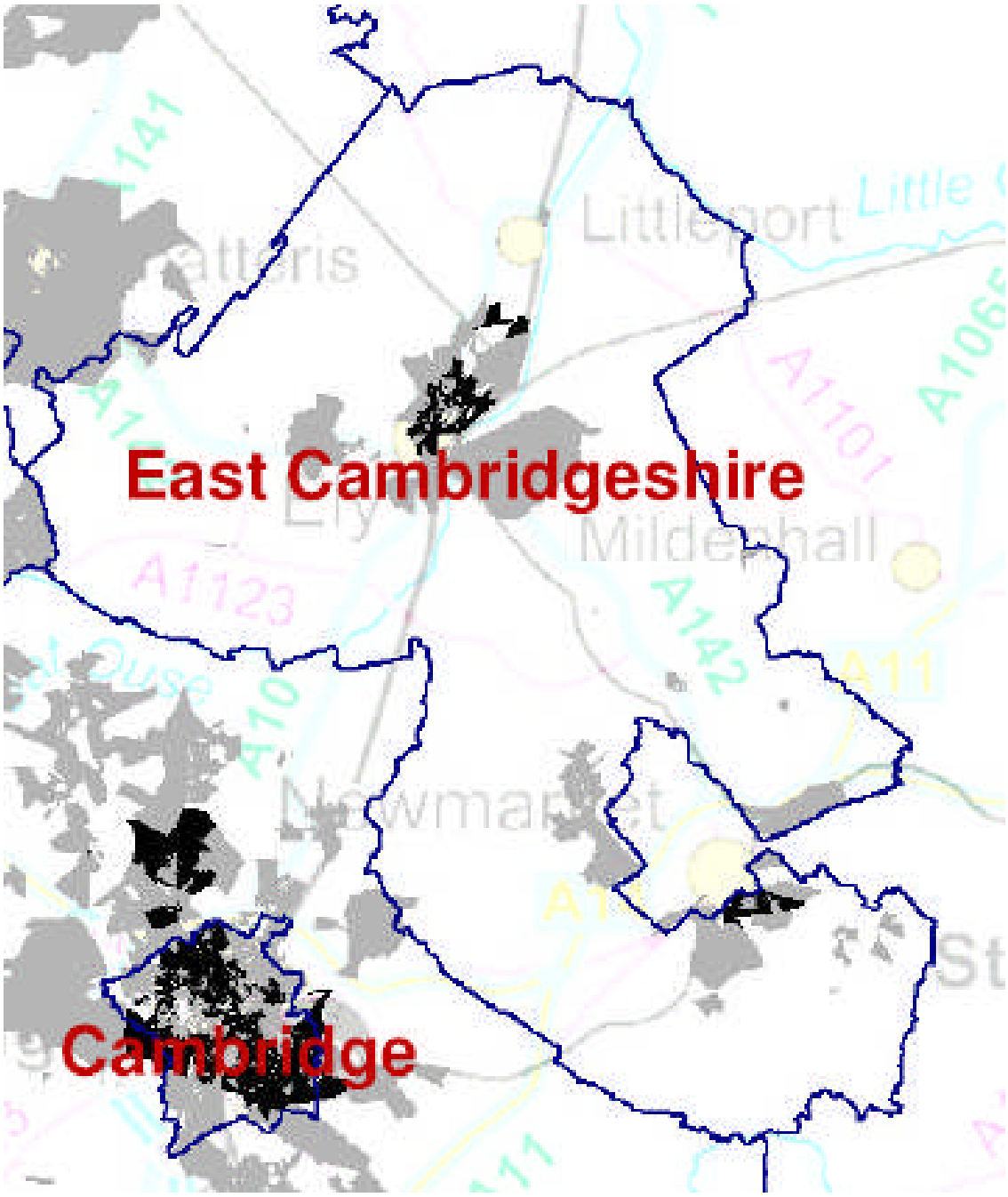
5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Equality impact assessment not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

Background Documents	**Location**	**Contact Officer**
East Cambridgeshire Black, Grey and White Map	Room FF115 Location: The Grange, Ely	Doug Perkins Position: Economic Development Officer (01353) 616458 E-mail: doug.perkins@eastcambs.gov.uk

East Cambridgeshire Next Generation Access Broadband Black/Grey/White Map to 2015



Black: 2 or more superfast broadband operators
Grey: 1 superfast broadband operator
White: No superfast broadband operator

Source: Analysys Mason, Operators, BDUK, 2012