



CAI.22 13/14
Challenge and Improvement Committee
Date 29 October 2013

Subject: Mobile Accessibility Roundtable

Report by:

Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To outline proposal for a roundtable discussion on mobile accessibility to identify potential options to progress the priority.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That members approve the roundtable debate and objectives outlined within the report.**
- 2. That members nominate three members of the Challenge and Improvement Committee to be part of the round table debate;**
- 3. That a further report be submitted to the January meeting of Challenge and Improvement committee, detailing the findings from the round table debate and proposals for next steps.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications: None
Financial Implications: None

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

Risk Assessment : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

X

1. Background

1.1. At the meeting of Council on 09 Sep 2013, (minute 58) - priorities were proposed and approved with the addition of a 10th priority around mobile connectivity.

1.2. The original nine priorities were based on evidence of need previously undertaken in these areas. Due to the lack of work to date around the evidence of need for the 10th priority, mobile connectivity, Challenge and Improvement Committee have been asked to consider this.

2. Approach

3. Work has previously been undertaken with a broadband working group to understand similar technology and mobile access was originally part of the scope of the working group however this was not fully considered at the time. It is proposed that a roundtable debate be held with the following make up:

1. Three Challenge and Improvement Committee member representatives,
2. The member champion for mobile accessibility,
3. Representatives of mobile operators,
4. Wireless communication provider representation,
5. Relevant Officer representation

4. Objectives

4.1. The objectives of the roundtable debate are proposed as:

- a.** To establish the current coverage/lack of coverage of mobile connectivity across the district
- b.** To establish likely improvements from mobile providers in the next few years for the district,
- c.** To establish options to increase mobile phone access in rural areas,
- d.** To understand what technical solutions may be available to us,
- e.** Provide a proposal for the way forward with regards to this priority.

5. Feedback

5.1. It is proposed that a report be brought back to the January meeting of Challenge and Improvement committee with the findings from the round table debate and proposals for next steps.