

Brief for Scrutiny

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic to be Scrutinised	
Broadband provision	
Questions to be Addressed	
(1)	Is the need for high speed broadband access affecting business development in Newcastle Borough?
(2)	What is the current broadband provision/take-up in the Borough?
(3)	What are the options for improving broadband provision in the Borough?
Outcome	
(1)	To establish whether the need for high speed broadband access is affecting business development in Newcastle Borough.
(2)	To determine the current broadband coverage within the Borough and to what extent existing businesses are using high speed broadband.
(3)	To understand the options available for improving speeds and access to broadband and the cost implications thereof.
Background Materials	
Evidence and Witnesses	
(1)	Local businesses.
(2)	Partner organisations providing business support.
(3)	Local residents.
(4)	Officers from Economic Regeneration, Leisure and Cultural Services and Financial Services teams.
(5)	County Council.
Method of Scrutiny	
(1)	Task and Finish Group – membership consisting of the Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other relevant members, officers and partner organisations.
(2)	Consideration of any evidence presented by local businesses and support organisations.
(3)	Consideration of any evidence presented by local residents.
Timetable	
Start Date:	Date of meeting to be arranged during August or early September.
Dates of Meetings:	to be agreed.
Draft Report.	4 weeks from date of Scrutiny Task and Finish meeting.
Final Report.	6 weeks from date of task and Finish meeting.
Report to Cabinet –	tbc depending on time to collect evidence.
Constraints	

Officer and Member availability/capacity during Sept - Oct.
<p>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</p> <p>Councillor M Olszewski Plus others to be agreed</p>
<p>Support</p> <p>Relevant Executive Directors Relevant Heads of Service Democratic Services Team</p>
<p>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area (s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough. • Creating a Borough of opportunity.
<p>CfPS Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers. • Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard. • Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role. • Drives improvement in public services.
<p>Brief Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee</p> <p>Signed: Date:</p>