

Wide Area Network

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact John Redmond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Louise McKenzie, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260205.

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on the position regarding utilising the Service's new Wide Area Network for broader public benefit.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note the report

3 Background

At its meeting on 17 June 2015, the Fire Authority discussed the potential use of the new Wide Area Network for broader public benefit. At that time the Assistant Chief Fire Officer explained that the technical and legal situation was complex and that extra resources would be needed to progress the matter further. The Fire Authority asked that the situation be monitored and a further update provided in December 2015.

4 Current Situation

In the intervening period there have been local and national press reports about rural broadband and the areas, which continue to lack connectivity. The Service has had discussions with Shropshire Council about the Broadband Delivery (BDUK) programme and, whilst it is not possible to offer any detail about potential partnerships activities to reach those areas not covered, the discussions have been informative for both parties and a further meeting is scheduled in January 2016.

If there is to be any benefit, it will need to be in areas, which have not and cannot be serviced through the BDUK arrangements for the foreseeable future (approximately 2 years).

5 Next Steps

It is proposed that discussions continue and that a further update be provided to the Fire Authority at its meeting in June 2016. This timeframe will also enable the Service to consider the recently updated procurement framework for network services. This a necessary activity internally for the coming months and would have a direct relationship with any future partnership work.

6 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8 Initial Impact Assessment

This report contains merely statements of fact. An Initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

9 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

10 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.