

CABINET – 19 JUNE 2012

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question received from the following Member:

Councillor David Turner to Councillor Nick Carter

" Would the Cabinet confirm that the policy of only spending the £3.86M central government grant on Broadband in areas of Oxfordshire where the download speed is lower than 2.0 Mb/s is still in place and advise in broad terms what we might expect to get in terms of speed and Countywide coverage in the future for the combined investment from Government, OCC's matched funding, use of OCN money and private sector funding?"

Answer:

"The national programme of broadband improvement will only improve services to approximately 70% of Oxfordshire by the end of 2015. The Council's programme, agreed in February 2012, remains in place and aims to have "superfast" broadband available to 90%. "Superfast" means speeds in excess of 24 Mb. The further aim is to have a minimum 2Mb in place for the remaining 10% of the county. The programme is intended to establish the necessary infrastructure on which commercial organisations can deliver broadband services. The Council will not be delivering broadband services.

The budget for the current Council led broadband programme comprises:

£3.86 Million from BDUK (Government funding)

£3.86 Million from OCC as matched funding for the BDUK contribution

£6.14 Million from OCC to enable us to cease the OCN by 2015

Through a procurement process, in common with similar programmes running elsewhere, we aim to secure a private sector partner who will make at least the same matched funding ie approximately £14 Million. The necessary procurement is now in progress and we expect to secure a private sector partner by the end of 2012.."