

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services
Executive Director: Douglas Hendry



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30 May 2014

SUPPLEMENTARY

MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP – 2.00P.M. IN ISLAY HIGH SCHOOL, BOWMORE

I enclose herewith additional reports for Item 5 (a) **BT – EXCHANGE INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES ON ISLAY AND JURA** on the Agenda for the above meeting which you are requested to attend..

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director - Customer Services

BUSINESS

- (a) BT - Exchange Infrastructure issues on Islay and Jura.
Issue raised by Jura Community Council. (Pages 1 - 10)

MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS LOCAL AREA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

Councillor Rory Colville (Chair) Councillor Donald MacMillan (Vice-Chair)

Shirley MacLeod – Area Governance Manager

Contact: Theresa McLetchie Tel: 01546 60451

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**MAKI Community Planning Group****Development and Infrastructure****4 June 2014**

Update on Next Generation Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Works to rollout next generation broadband within MAKI have commenced and are expected to be delivered by the end of 2016.
- 1.2 For those communities which are unable to benefit from the next generation broadband programme support is available from Community Broadband Scotland. Within MAKI, the Argyll Isles community project is looking to deliver superfast broadband to Colonsay, Jura, parts of Islay and the Craignish Peninsula.
- 1.3 The Mobile Infrastructure Project is aiming to address some locations where there is no mobile phone coverage but confirmation as to which sites in Argyll will benefit is still awaited.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Community Planning Group notes the content of the report.

3.0 DETAIL**Next Generation Broadband**

- 3.1 Next generation broadband is often described as broadband with download speeds in excess of 24 megabytes per second.
- 3.2 The rollout of next generation broadband within the MAKI area will be undertaken through the Highlands and Islands project which is being led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and delivered by BT. The project is largely publicly funded and without this intervention BT would not be proposing to install next generation broadband in the MAKI area as it would not be commercially viable (only parts of the towns of Oban, Dunoon and Helensburgh will be delivered on a commercial basis).
- 3.3 The project will require significant new infrastructure to be installed including 800km of new fibre land based cables and 400km of sub-sea cabling via 20 subsea crossings. Work has already commenced in building this backbone which will form the 'motorway' network to bring next generation broadband into the area. An illustration of this backbone network is attached as Appendix 6.1.

- 3.4 Next generation broadband will be delivered from the handover exchanges, indicated as circles on the map at 6.1 – Campbeltown, Lochgilphead and Port Ellen currently shown for MAKI, to new telecommunication cabinets in local communities via an access fibre network.
- 3.5 The provision of next generation broadband will not be universal and will be rolled out at different times across Argyll. An indication of the exchange areas that are expected to benefit and the timescales for each area is shown on the map at Appendix 6.2. It is anticipated that the service will be available within the MAKI area during 2016.
- 3.6 A number of communities are currently shown as under evaluation as BT and HIE are investigating whether it will be possible to provide coverage within the scope of the project. One such community is Jura. The backbone cable passes through Jura but without a handover exchange on the island next generation broadband would be required to be delivered by the access fibre from Port Ellen or Lochgilphead. The significant distance this would involve coupled with the dispersed nature of premises on the island means that it would be costly to deploy the new technology and may not benefit those outside the main settlement. The population on Jura is not sufficient to enable the provision of a dedicated handover exchange and the nature of fibre cable is that it is difficult to break into at a mid-point.
- 3.7 Community Broadband Scotland has been established to help those communities which are unlikely to benefit from the next generation broadband projects to establish their own superfast broadband service. A number of pilot projects were identified across Scotland including on the Isle of Colonsay. Work has been progressing on Colonsay and has led to the formation of a larger project – the Argyll Isles.
- 3.8 The Argyll Isles project is seeking to provide superfast broadband to all premises on Colonsay, Jura, Iona, Lismore, Luing and parts of Mull, Islay and the Craginish Peninsula. The area is home to around 3,300, people living in 1,439 properties. There are also 120 businesses in the project area. A map indicating the extent of the Argyll Isles community broadband project is included at Appendix 6.3.
- 3.9 The Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project is leading the programme and comprises the following seven community groups:
- Mull and Iona Community Trust
 - Colonsay Community Development Trust
 - Jura Development Trust
 - Craginish Community Company
 - Lismore Community Council
 - Islay Broadband Group
 - Atlantic Islands Trust (Luing)
- 3.10 The project aims to deliver superfast broadband to 100% of the Argyll Isles project community by 2015. They are hoping to go out to tender during the summer.

Mobile Infrastructure

- 3.11 The UK government are undertaking a programme to improve mobile coverage (2G) to a number of locations which currently have no mobile coverage from any mobile network operator, the Mobile Infrastructure Project (MIP). The National Implementation Plan identified those locations which were to be targeted through the MIP including a number of locations on the mainland area of MAKI.
- 3.12 The Council have however recently been advised that the National Implementation Plan is being reviewed as a result of new information provided and we are therefore awaiting confirmation as to the implications this will have in relation to the sites in Argyll.
- 3.13 It should be noted that any location identified through the National Implementation Plan could still be subject to technical constraints which could hamper the delivery of improvements in this location.
- 3.14 The MIP sits alongside the requirement for O2 to provide coverage to 95% of the Scottish population through the rollout of its 4G network. It is expected that other operators will provide a similar level of coverage. Whilst it is not yet confirmed which areas will receive 4G coverage it is expected that it will improve the 2G and 3G service to these areas.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 There are a number of projects which seek to improve digital connectivity across the MAKI area including Islay, Jura and Colonsay.
- 4.2 Updates will be provided via the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/superfast-broadband.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – the improvement of digital infrastructure is supported by the Single Outcome Agreement and Economic Development Action Plan.
- 5.2 Financial – The Highlands and Islands Next Generation Broadband Project has a budget of £146m. The Mobile Infrastructure Project has a budget of £150m. To date the Council have not contributed financially to these projects.
- 5.3 Legal – None.
- 5.4 HR – Staff resources are being allocated to supporting these projects.
- 5.5 Equalities – None.
- 5.6 Risk – the risks relate to the projects not being delivered on time or technical difficulties which restrict the roll out of improvements. Lack of take up on the next generation broadband service will reduce the funding available to extend the infrastructure.
- 5.7 Customer Service – None.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Fibre Backbone Map

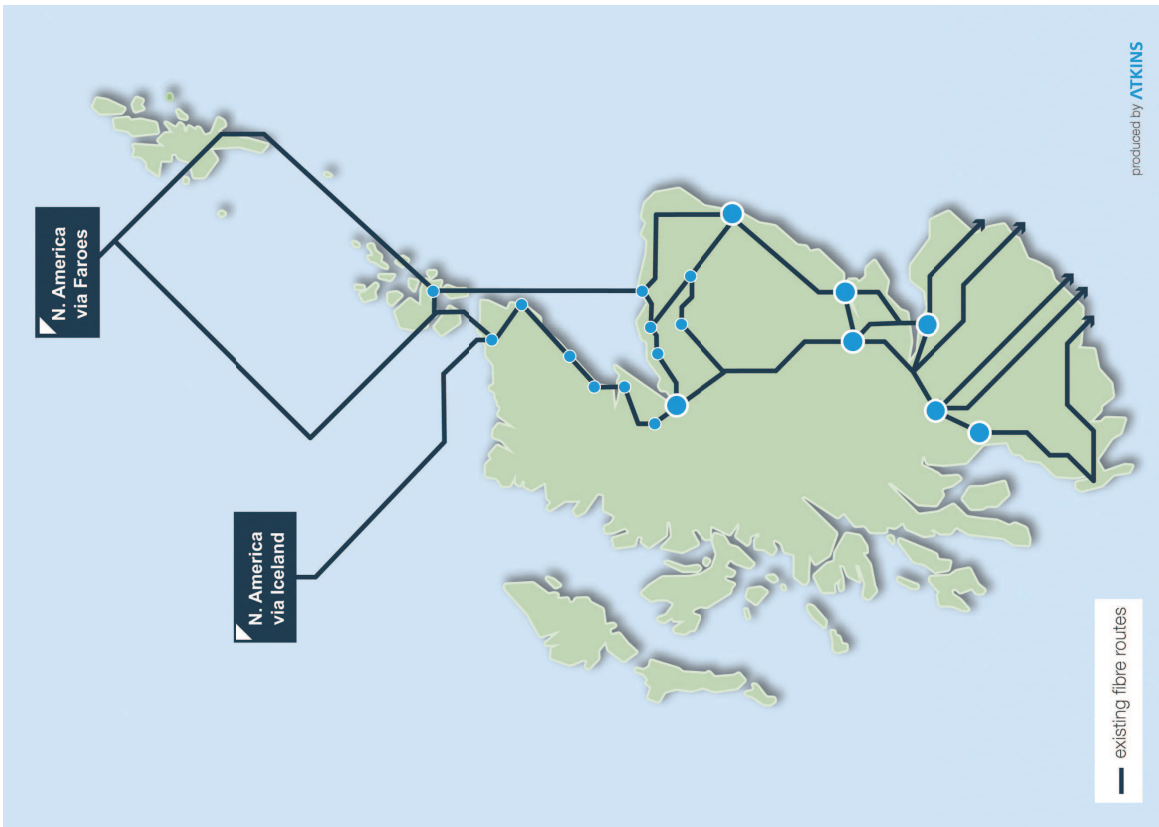
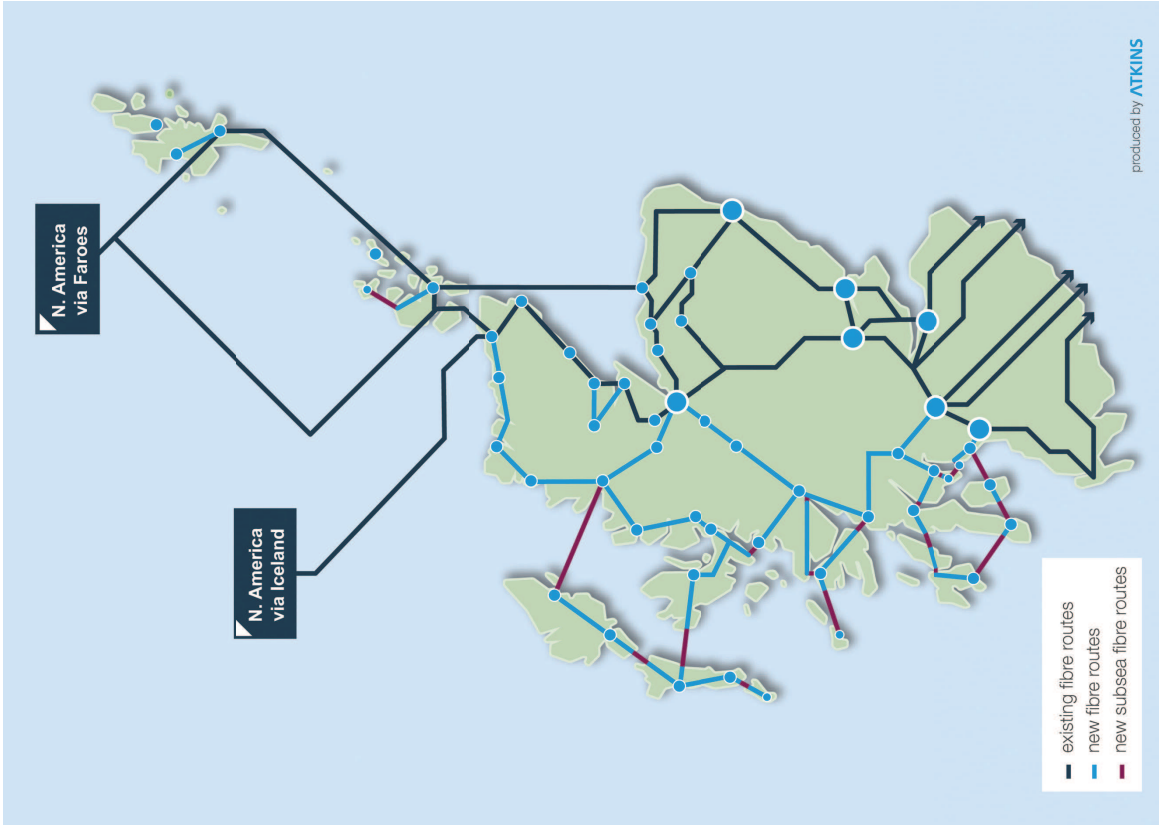
6.2 Highlands and Islands: Planned Rollout

6.3 Argyll Isles Project Area

Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services

28 May 2014

For further information contact: Anna Watkiss (Anna.Watkiss@argyll-bute.gov.uk, 01546 604344)



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Highlands and Islands: Planned Rollout

Legend

-  Highland and Islands project boundary
-  Local Authority Boundaries
-  Fibre Rollout: January - June 2014
-  Fibre Rollout: July - December 2014
-  Fibre Rollout: January - June 2015
-  Fibre Rollout: July - December 2015
-  Fibre Rollout: January - June 2016
-  Fibre Rollout: July - December 2016
-  Under Evaluation
-  Not Included In Project (Commercial Coverage)

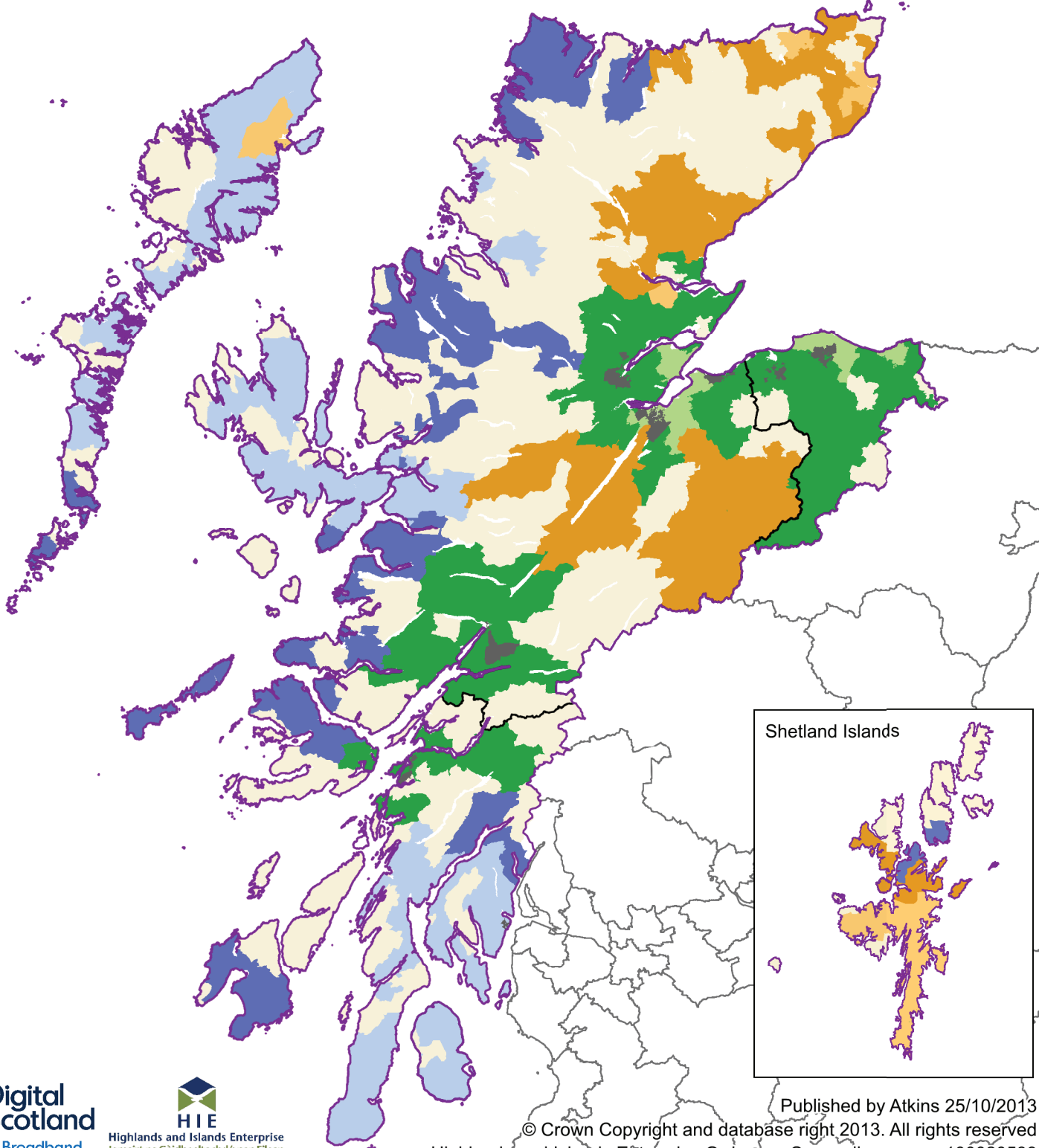
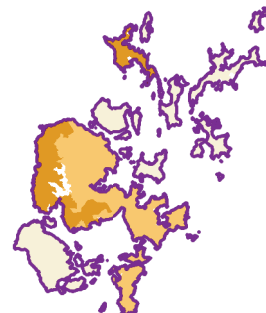
The information shown on this map is subject to survey and may change.

All information, including forecast dates, is indicative only. Forecast dates may move forwards as well as backwards.

In those areas marked "Under Evaluation" we are working to extend the coverage of fibre broadband and other technologies in these areas.

Premises within an area due to receive fibre broadband will not necessarily receive it at the same time due to different rollout technologies being deployed.

It is not necessarily the case that all premises in an upgraded area will receive an increased speed - different premises in that area may be served by different infrastructure.



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