
Briefing Note: COMMUNITY BROADBAND SCOTLAND. (CBS).

This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome 2. The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) activities are due to be completed by 2020 or before. The briefing is for noting.

Summary

The Communities of Colonsay, Mull, Iona, Islay, Jura, Luing, Craginish and Lismore have formed GigaPlus Argyll Community Broadband in order to serve their areas with Superfast Broadband. The project tender is now let to AB Internet and connections are expected in the early New Year. Argyll and Bute currently has more than 17,000 premises drawn into the DSSB fibre/copper network. There are 79 new fibre cabinets live across the area which, when added to commercial roll-out, are reaching around 76% of premises so far. Areas Live: Oban, Aros, Balvicar, Benderloch (Ledaig), Connel, Dalmally, Craginure, Dervaig, Kilmelford, Taynuilt, & Tobermory. Areas underway: Appin, Kilmore, Scarinish, the Isle of Coll.

Further information is available on: <http://gigaplusargyll.co.uk/> and

<http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland/default.html>

Key Points for Consideration

Community Broadband Scotland Project title : GigaPlus Argyll

- Project Location(s): The seven major Argyll Isles and the Craginish Peninsula
- Lead Organisation: Gigaplus Argyll
- Project Overview:
- GigaPlus Argyll progresses well in agreeing Ground leases & Planning Permissions. The project build is expected to complete late in the year. Connections are expected in the early New Year.
- Estimated total project cost: £1.2m
- Estimated number of premises: c.1400

Key Points for Discussion

The Superfast Broadband projects under the auspices of DSSB Fibre and Community Broadband Scotland will meet Scottish Government targets of 100% coverage by the end of this parliamentary session in 2021. This transformational change in the way we communicate with each other and access our public and private services and economic opportunities has the potential to assist in the reversal population decline in our region. Members may wish to consider how they can contribute to the benefit realisation of this technology for Argyll and Bute by implementing, informing and educating in their own sphere of influence.

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