

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Superfast Broadband Connection Vouchers

14th April 2015

For Information

14.0 Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Prosperity
Lead Officer	Richard Baker - Director of Leisure & Development Patricia O'Brien – Economic Development Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	£8,000

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Members on the Superfast Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme.

14.1 Background

As part of its Broadband Delivery UK Programme the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) has been running the Superfast Broadband Connection Vouchers Scheme across a number of cities in the UK. In Northern Ireland, this was initially only available in Belfast and then Derry City.

The UK wide scheme run by DCMS has now been extended to 31st March 2016 and Belfast City Council has been encouraged to extend the scheme across Northern Ireland. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Economic Development Team expressed an interest in being part of this scheme which provides a grant of up to £3,000 to cover the installation cost of high speed connectivity solutions. The scheme is available to businesses, charities and social enterprises and aims to provide connection speeds of at least 30 megabits per second. In some cases, organisations in the same location can pool their vouchers to get the connection set up.

The expression of interest has been successful and Causeway Coast and Glens Council are now a registered participant on the scheme. We have a target of 100 vouchers to be issued by 31st March 2016. As per the guidelines issued by DCMS Belfast City Council will handle all paperwork and reporting through a Service Level Agreement with Causeway Coast and Glens Council. The cost of the SLA is £8,000. Economic Development staff will start promoting the scheme and encouraging suitable organisations to take up the opportunity over the coming weeks and months.