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WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

WORCESTERSHIRE 5G – PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABILITY AND 5G CREATE APPLICATIONS

Date of Decision	7 September 2020
Decision Maker	Dr K A Pollock, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure
Brief Description of Decision	<p>Whilst considering the report the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure was informed that the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had advised Worcestershire both of the '5G Create' applications had been unsuccessful in securing funding.</p> <p>On this basis the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) noted the work undertaken by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP), the Council and other partners in the successful delivery of the first Worcestershire 5G project and the ongoing work on the West Mercia 5G project as part of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) 5G Testbed and Trials programme;(b) noted the successful application for funding into 'Open for Business' to support the transition of Worcestershire 5G into a sustainable model;(c) noted the application for two new proposed projects into DCMS's 5G Create fund have been unsuccessful;(d) noted, that whilst both of the '5G Create' applications to DCMS have been unsuccessful, the work on the wider programme will continue in a limited capacity;(e) noted and accepts both the potential opportunities and risks that are identified within this report and earlier 5G Cabinet reports; and

	<p>(f) authorised the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure to finalise and agree the necessary agreements to progress and support the Open for Business project and pursue a sustainable model for the Worcestershire 5G testbed, noting that delegations in earlier 5G Cabinet reports also remain in place.</p>
<p>Reason(s) For Decision</p>	<p>As set out in the report, the Council's Cabinet endorsed the progression of the original Worcestershire 5G project in April 2018 and recommended that options to extend the project were continued to be explored.</p> <p>Whilst the '5G Create' applications have been unsuccessful the proposed '5G Open for Business' project and wider programme is supportive of the wider Council and Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership priorities and strategic ambitions for the county and therefore should continue.</p> <p>In respect of the continuing work to secure a sustainable future for the Worcestershire 5G testbed it is expedient that the issue has been considered by the relevant Cabinet Member rather than await a Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>In addition, delegating further authority to the Strategic Director of Economy and Infrastructure, thereby allowing the conversations amongst partners the flexibility to conclude within the agreed parameters set out above is the most practicable approach.</p>
<p>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</p>	<p>Three other options were considered and subsequently rejected.</p> <p>Option 1: Not to agree to pursue the plan for a sustainable model for Worcestershire 5G without the 5G Create projects - This was rejected as the preference would be to recognise the potential benefits of a viable local testbed for both current and future partners and trialists.</p> <p>Option 2: Delay decision until DCMS have approved a proposal – This was not required as DCMS rejected the applications before a decision was made</p> <p>Option 3: Partial approval of recommendations – This was discounted as the different elements are complementary within the wider programme and are important to the long-term sustainability of the Worcestershire 5G Testbed.</p>
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/any dispensation granted</p>	<p>None</p>

Signature of Decision Maker	Dr K A Pollock
Date of Implementation of Decision	14 September 2020