



Notice of key decision to be made under General Exception provisions

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of notice: 10 February 2015

To: Councillor Peter O'Neill
Chair of Scrutiny Board

From: Heather Clark
Service Development Manager, City Economy

An intention to make the following key decision, which is to be considered by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel on 3 March 2015, was not publicised in advance as required by the Regulations.

Report title: Black Country Broadband Vouchers

Classification: PUBLIC

The reason(s) for the omission from the forward plan of key decisions and the reason(s) why this decision cannot be delayed until the requisite 28 days have elapsed are:

In the Autumn statement, the Government announced an extension of the broadband voucher scheme. The scheme provides up to £3,000 grants to small and medium sized enterprises to cover the installation costs of a faster and better broadband service. The extension of the voucher scheme will allow Wolverhampton to address the gap in superfast broadband in Wolverhampton city centre and allow a shorter term solution to slow broadband speeds on our business parks prior. At a workshop on 29 January 2015, the timescale for steps required to be completed to allow the rollout to start 1 April 2015 was outlined, including the requirement for the Senior Responsible Officer to sign a formal agreement by 21 March 2015. Although a report on Smart Cities was planned for Cabinet (Resources) panel on 24 March 2015, we need to seek approval to enter into the formal agreement in advance of this meeting.

This notice must be provided to the Chair of the Scrutiny Board and to the appropriate democratic support officer at least five clear working days in advance of the relevant Executive meeting.