

Super Connected Oxford – Project Update, March 2015

Oxford is one of 22 cities that secured funding from Government to support Super Connected broadband and wireless projects. This short paper provides an update on the wireless and broadband projects that form the Super Connected Oxford Programme.

Wi-Fi Hotspots Project

- 40 free to enter public buildings are having free wireless installed. These include University museums, Visitor Information Centre, civic buildings, park and ride sites, libraries and community centres
- Many are already live with 38 being completed by end of March and last two, Ashmolean Museum and Museum of Natural History due to go live in late March and May respectively
- All work funded by Government and Oxford City Council with additional funding for museums and visitor economy related projects secured through the LEP
- We are planning a launch event 24 March 2015 at The Museum of Natural History



Wi-Fi on Public Transport

- Our target of free wi-fi being delivered on 225 buses was exceeded and has been rolled out to 283 buses operating in the Smart Oxford Zone.
- Funding was secured by the City Council from Government to support capital costs for the Oxford Bus Company, which they topped up to cover all buses
- Stagecoach did not meet State Aid requirements but were given officer support and are funding free wi-fi on all buses
- Feedback from users has been very positive and usage numbers on all routes is high



Wireless Concession

- Procurement Strategy completed and signed off by the Project Board
- City and County Councils working together making assets available to potential providers

- Discussions taking place with Universities to explore potential use of Eduroam over the network and opening out to wider use
- Working to ensure that procurement process encourages wider Smart City ambitions around sensor/data collection technology and doesn't limit use of assets to wireless only technologies
- Proposed procurement timetable as follows:

Activity	Target date
Call for Competition noticed advertised inviting expressions of interest	13 th April 2015
Deadline for receipt of expressions of interest (<i>pre-qualification questionnaires</i>)	5:30pm 13 th May 2015
Selection assessment (<i>to determine shortlist</i>)	14 th to 22 nd May 2015
Invitation to negotiate issued	1 st June 2015
Deadline for receipt of initial proposals	5:30pm 30 th June 2015
<i>The rest of the timeline cannot be fully detailed as this will be dependent on when the Council feels it can conclude negotiation and invite final tenders.</i>	
Voluntary standstill period (<i>not required but recommended to avoid any challenge before a contract is concluded</i>)	10 calendar days
Contract go-live	TBC

Broadband Connection Voucher Scheme

- After difficult start nationally and locally with low take up numbers have increased and just over 100 vouchers have been issued in Oxford
- Voucher scheme has been extended to run through to March 2016 and 28 new cities invited to be part of the scheme
- We have applied to increase the scheme to cover the whole of the LEP area (Oxfordshire) and are awaiting agreement from Government
- Oxford City Council will continue to run the scheme and we will joint market with District Councils and the LEP
- We are in discussions with some of the new cities and offering support on delivery of the scheme and offering to act as a processing centre

More details about the voucher scheme can be found at
<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/connectionvouchers>