

<b>Report on</b>	Broadband Working Group - Terms of Reference
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	15 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval for updated Terms of Reference enclosed for Mid Ulster's Broadband Working Group.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Council's Broadband Working Group was originally established to scrutinize and investigate the blackspots/not-spots in broadband provision across Mid Ulster district. Much work was undertaken over the last few years in relation to identifying gaps in provision and liaising with officials from the Department for the Economy (Telecoms Branch) to address the shortcomings of Project Stratum and to a lesser extent Project Gigabit.</p> <p>The Working Group comprises of a number of elected members and is provided with administrative support from Council's economic development team.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The Broadband Working Group met on 14 December 2023 where Members reviewed the Group's Terms of Reference (ToR). They recommended a series of changes to the ToR such as updating the names of elected members serving on the group, extending the scope of the group to include wider telecoms issues such as mobile coverage etc.</p> <p>The updated Terms of Reference for Council's Broadband Working Group is enclosed on <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: Officer time.

	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members;  <b>Approve</b> Council's updated Broadband Working Group Terms of Reference as enclosed on Appendix 1.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Broadband Working Group Terms of Reference (V.2 Updated Dec 23).