



FFNI Steering Group Minutes
31st March 2022, 14:00pm
Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Majella McAlister
Ards and North Down Borough Council	Clare McGill Niall Drew
Business Services Organisation	Anthony McGlade
Causeway, Coast and Glens Borough Council	Richard Baker Niall McGurk
Derry City and Strabane District Council	Stephen Gillespie (Chair)
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Anne Quinn
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	Padraic Murphy
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Steven Walls
Mid Ulster District Council	Barry O'Hagan
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council	Conor Mallon (FFNI SRO) Jonathan McGilly
FFNI Ops Team	Michael Forster (FFNI Ops Lead)
Fibrus	Adele Glenn
DCMS	Jim Hill
Belfast City Council	Ruth Rea Ciaran Boylan

Apologies:

FFNI Operations Team	Paula Jones (FFNI Project Support)
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1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Stephen Gillespie welcomed the meeting.</p> <p>All happy with minutes from the previous meeting.</p>	<p>Action</p>
2	<p>Programme Activity;</p> <p>Claim 3 Payment</p> <p>Michael Forster provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim submitted to BDUK on 7th February 2022. • Delayed due to parallel Checkpoint E change control and further clarifications. • All Partners were asked to pay their Fibrus invoices to avoid any interest charges (30-day payment window). • Release of grant escalated by Conor Mallon (FFNI SRO) on 23rd March 2022. BDUK confirmed that the claim was approved and at the payment phase. Payment to NMDDC estimated w/c 04th April 2022. • Total claim for Milestone 4 is £6,234,919.24. Infrastructure delivery of 117 LFFN sites and 45 RGC sites. Total of 162 sites for this Grant Milestone. <p>Progress to Date</p> <p>MiF provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFNI site list is 937 across all partners. Outcome to be determined shortly following Openreach update. • Of the 245 Openreach Commercial sites, currently 195 are estimated to be completed. • Shortfall of 50 Openreach Commercial sites beyond FFNI / Fibrus control. • This issue has also affected DFE where OR said it was doing sites and left them out of Stratum. • Of the 362 Openreach FFIB sites, currently 355 are estimated to be completed. • Of the 330 Fibrus sites, currently 328 have been connected. • Overall completion on 28th March 2022 now estimates 878 sites to be completed. Approx. 93.7% completion rate. 	

- Openreach FFIB figures may increase slightly due to report updates from OR delivery team to Fibrus.
- Openreach Commercial sites are reported end of quarter and figure remaining may reduce also.
- All sites accounted for in the claim must be connected by 31st March 2022. No further extension from BDUK is possible.

Milestone 4a and 4b

MiF provided the following update:

Fibrus Sites

- 328 / 330 sites are now 100% complete.
- 2 BSO sites remain (1 wayleave remains outstanding and 1 transfer of deeds from DoH outstanding).
- Risk lies with BSO in terms of it being a relief event; risk is being monitored and Fibrus are trying to get connectivity to this site.

FFIB

- 5 sites flagged as amber and awaiting fibre build.
- 5 sites connected and awaiting handover packs.
- 55 sites are at the commissioning stage; ONT has been physically installed and commissioning process may take up to 10 days before Fibrus receive the handover packs.
- Openreach have informed Fibrus that they are aiming to get all FFIB sites completed except for 7.

Commercial Rollout

- No update from Openreach on the remaining 50 commercial rollout sites.
- Update to be provided after 31st March 2022, following a check of the OR portal.
- There is a risk that quite a few of these commercial sites will be dropped off and not be connected.
- As per the contract, there is a high risk that costs associated with the Fibrus or FFIB sites cannot be claimed for if a relief event partners will be liable for costs incurred (approx. 90%) for Fibrus sites or 100% for FFIB.

<p>3</p>	<p>Financial Status</p> <p>MiF provided the following financial status update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 28th February 2022, actual expenditure reflected £654,894 with a remaining allocation of £30K for consultancy if required. • FFNI Operations team have been built out to June 2022 for final claim and mop-up. • Consultancy costs from October 2021 to March 2022 are likely to be invoiced towards the end of this month. Invoice amount is estimated to be approx. £2,500.00 per Council. 	
<p>4</p>	<p>Risks & Issues</p> <p>12 and above are the highest risk: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Fibrus and FFIB sites – highest risk to date. Partners with remaining sites may be liable for incurred costs at this stage as Openreach and Fibrus have built to MPT / CBT. • WAN Migration Evidence – Risk developing on WAN Onboarding costs that can be claimed from MS5 as ABC procurement delayed. Guy Middleton to present indicatives costs and rationale to DCMS along with procurement details (if applicable). FFNI • Ops Team has also requested details on dark fibre connections as well as the initial connections to Openreach commercial sites. • Updated Checkpoint E and Grant Agreement – BDUK is now processing change control based on January 2022 data. New order forms and revised Grant Variation Letter (GVL) required to reflect actual outcome on 31st March 2022. 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Forward Look for Next Reporting Period</p> <p>MiF outlined the next steps. These were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of Claim 3 by BDUK to NMDDC and issued to all partners. • Checkpoint E change control and revised Grant Variation Letter (GVL). • Eligible costs for Milestone 5 onboarding presented as part of the claim. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim 4 submission and highlight report. • Checkpoint F close-down, evaluation of programme, lessons learned workshop and highlight reports. • Benefits Realisation and individual case studies. Required date 31st December 2022. • Future PR event to be scheduled post Purdah and formal overview on successful outcome. 	
AOB		



FFNI Operations Group Minutes
23rd March 2022, 14:00pm
Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Alastair Law Andy Cole
Ards and North Down Borough Council	Niall Drew (Chair)
Business Services Organisation	Kieran McConville
Causeway, Coast and Glens Borough Council	Louise Mullan
Derry City and Strabane District Council	Paul Jackson
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	Padraic Murphy
Mid Ulster District Council	Barry O'Hagan Colin McKenna Nicky Doris
FFNI Operations Team	Michael Forster (FFNI Ops Lead) Paula Jones (FFNI Ops Support)
Fibrus	Adele Glenn
BDUK	Billy McClean Michael Kelly Jim Hill
DMSLUK SRN	Lucie Smith Gareth Elliott

Apologies:

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Stephen Cassidy Lauren Johnston
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1	Welcome	Action
2	<p>Shared Rural Network Update</p> <p>Lucie Smith provided the following update:</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Rural Network (SRN) is a programme designed to improve 4G coverage across the UK. • It was developed by the four mobile operators alongside UK Government. • Regulated by OFCOM and each operator has a series of obligations / deadlines that they are required to meet. • Those obligations relate to geographic coverage in both the UK and across the 4 nations. Also, around coverage to premises and roads. <p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme can be divided into two parts: Firstly, the industry funded element designed to deliver improvements in Northern Ireland. Operators are collectively investing £532m to build and upgrade mast sites that have 4G coverage. • This element is focused on partial hotspot areas whereby parts of the UK have 4G coverage from one or more operators but not from all four. • Secondly, the publicly funded element designed to develop and build new infrastructure in areas that have zero 4G coverage. • Combination of these two elements will deliver 4G coverage to 95% of UK land maps. <p>Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRN commenced in March 2020 through the signing of the Grant Agreement. • Public communications by OFCOM relating to the agreement of the initial radio plan. • Jan/Feb 2021, the four operators announced their P&S plans and are now moving into delivery phase. 	

- EE is delivering their P&S improvements mainly to upgrade existing sites due to footprint. A lot of progress has been made to date with several sites being upgraded already.
- Remaining three operators are working together to build 222 new sites across the UK to deliver their P&S improvements. Those sites are now entering the formal application process now.
- Deadline for works to be completed is 30th June 2024; Most recent OFCOM Connected Nations Report indicated that improvements have been delivered already and we expect to see this increase with each report published.

NI Specific Coverage Improvement

- Important to note that these are forecast improvements only; they are not guaranteed and are subject to planning agreements with landowners and other factors.
- Both UK and NI maps can be viewed on the SRN website, alongside the breakdown of coverage by Local Authority. Uplift is evident in partial hotspots from all four MNOs across all Local Authorities.

Benefits of Programme

- Benefit of 4G coverage in areas that have patchy or zero 4G coverage to date.
- Improving connectivity for people who are living, working and travelling in rural parts across the UK.
- Positive impact expected within the Tourist industry, rural businesses and helping people stay connected.

Resources

- Series of fact sheets available on the SRN website, outlining the benefits of the programme.
- As we move into delivery at the point of where planning applications are being submitted, residents in rural areas are very keen to protect their landscape. There appears to be a tension between wanting the coverage but not the infrastructure.
- Presentation Slides to be shared afterwards.

LuS

Michael Forster commented, today's update is the result of a discussion about planning applications going into Council and getting lost for the installation of masts or equipment on Council property. Hence, delaying the process. Within NMDDC, FFNI sits under the same Directorate as the Planning Department, and approvals have been fast-tracked previously. Having a coordinated approach, either through FFNI or Operations Leads, may be beneficial to assist SRN with the approval process.

Colin McKenna noted that landscape would not be the prohibiting factor in MUDC, rather it would be health concerns. Residents still have this mentality that there are health issues and fast-tracking applications through planning can only be done if health issues are addressed.

LuS replied, we tend to see more push back on 5G compared to 4G in relation to health concerns. Mobile UK have been involved in a campaign addressing this issue and the materials can be shared with you all afterwards.

Gareth Elliott provided a link to the 5G Check the Facts campaign in the meeting chat. He reiterated that 5G is safe and is governed by very strict regulations. Tests were carried out in Belfast when the initial 5G masts were installed and results indicated 0.0006% of radiation of the allowed guidelines.

Paul Jackson queried why 4G is being installed and not 5G; will the 4G mast have a 5G capability in the future. LuS replied, where operators are installing 5G, it is in urban areas where there is a need for capacity and a large volume of people using the masts. Rural areas have a lower usage and fewer number of people connecting, therefore 4G is more than sufficient for demand.

PaJ noted he was liaising with one of the installation engineers who advised that it will be capable for 5G in the future. DSDC are looking to possibly rollout 5G in the City Centre but also rural areas as part of our City Deal. LuS replied, where operators are doing their own upgrades, they may make that decision, but it is not a requirement of this programme.

GaE continued, 4G is a commitment to the UK Government and the funding that comes with that. Equally the operators are working towards the ambition for many households to have 5G coverage by 2030. It is important to note that within rural areas, it is all about coverage whereas urban areas it is all about capacity.

Barry O'Hagan queried in relation to NI coverage maps, were those provided by Mobile Network Operators and if so, did you seek any independent quality assurance. LuS replied, the maps are generated by DMS and the operators on the radio plans have been agreed with OFCOM. They are based on modelling rather than drive testing or any further validation.

NiD queried the number of masts to be installed in NI and how many would be owned by Local Government.

LuS replied, it is difficult to provide a definitive figure due to EE upgrading their existing sites. The remaining three operators have published some figures of the number of sites they plan to build, and this can be shared following the meeting. Quite often, communication from the Mobile Operators is not going to the correct contacts within Council and time is being lost. If a SPOC can be provided for each organisation, these details can be shared with the operators for future planning applications.

MiF advised that the FFNI Operations team, subject to approvals, could field these queries and issue out to each organisation as and when they come in. Discussion to be continued with the Operations Group to determine how best to fast-track this process.

MiF queried if Mobile UK / Mobile Operators are aware of the scale of FFNI and that there are nearly 1000 sites with a 1Gb connection across NI. There are some sites in NMDDC that would be suitable for masts being installed to broadcast 4G and/or 5G.

LuS replied yes, I would hope they do. They generally have sufficient tools to pull together that information however, there are so many different sources, and it is possible that they do not have the most up-to-date data.

	<p>GaE noted this was the first time he had heard about 1000 sites. It is certainly something that is progressing in Scotland and England, putting public assets into a database and the several layers of information that comes with it. We are liaising with DfE as part of its Mobile Action Plan and are keen to see something similar being replicated for Northern Ireland. Follow-up meeting to be setup with MiF.</p> <p>Lucie Smith and Gareth Elliott left the meeting.</p>	<p>MiF</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Programme Activity;</p> <p>Claim 3 Payment MiF provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim submitted to BDUK on 7th February 2022. • Delayed due to parallel Checkpoint E change control and further clarifications. • All Partners were asked to pay their Fibrus invoices to avoid any interest charges (30-day payment window). • Adele Glenn confirmed Fibrus has had remittances from all partners except for MUDC. • Release of claim has now been escalated to Conor Mallon (FFNI SRO) who is going to contact his counterparts in BDUK to see if we can get a timeframe for payment. • Total claim for Milestone 4 is £6,234,919.24. Infrastructure delivery of 117 LFFN sites and 45 RGC sites. Total of 162 sites for this Grant Milestone. • FFNI Operations team will update all partners as soon as more information is available. <p>Milestone 4a and 4b MiF provided the following update:</p> <p>Fibrus Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 328 / 330 sites are now 100% complete. • 2 BSO sites remain (1 wayleave remains outstanding and 1 transfer of deeds from DoH outstanding). 	

- AdG noted, Fibrus are trying to get access to Summerhill and are liaising with the contractor directly to get access to the building.
- Risk lies with BSO in terms of it being a relief event; risk is being monitored and Fibrus are trying to get connectivity to this site.

FFIB

- 17 sites marked as red and are still at risk due to wayleave / access issues; sites will classify as a relief event if not resolved.
- 5 sites marked as amber and are awaiting fibre build. There is a risk that some of these sites may not be completed until April / May and cannot be claimed for by partners.
- 51 sites marked as green and are at the commissioning / fibre build stage. It is likely that these sites will form part of the March 2022 claim.

Commercial Rollout

- No update from Openreach on the remaining 50 commercial rollout sites.
- Update to be provided after 31st March 2022, following a check of the OR portal.
- There is a risk that quite a few of these commercial sites will be dropped off and not be connected.

Wayleaves

- Outstanding wayleave for MEABC Michelin Council Office Block. Follow-up to be made with Mervyn Glasgow after meeting.
- Several BSO outstanding wayleave/ access issues.
- Kieran McConville advised majority of these wayleaves have now been granted.
- AdG advised she will provide a further update from Openreach tomorrow (24th March).

Paul Jackson queried who the contact would be if Openreach are not liaising with partners directly. MiF replied, partners can contact myself or Adele Glenn in Fibrus.

<p>4</p>	<p>Financial Status</p> <p>MiF provided the following financial status update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the most recent Steering Group call, the FFNI Operations team have been built out to June 2022 for final claim and mop-up based on Option 2 calculations. This may need to be extended. • Consultancy costs from October 2021 to March 2022 are likely to be invoiced towards the end of this month. Invoice amount is estimated to be approx. £2,500.00 per Council. <p>BaO queried if partners will receive their consultancy invoice before the end of March 2022. MiF replied, if I can get a March invoice from Guy Middleton, I will be able to include it and send it across to your Accounts Department for this financial year if preferred.</p> <p>BaO and PaJ outlined their agreement with this approach.</p> <p>NiD queried if a new purchase order is required or are existing purchase orders being used. Paula Jones replied, it is likely that a new purchase order will be required but I will follow-up after this call and confirm with each partner.</p>	<p>PaJ</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Risks & Issues</p> <p>12 and above are the highest risk: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Fibrus and FFIB sites – highest risk to date. Partners to ensure all outstanding wayleaves and access issues are resolved for sites which fall into Milestone 4b. Any costs that cannot be claimed from DCMS will have to be incurred by partners. • WAN Migration Evidence – correspondence received from Fibrus regarding WAN Migration. It forms part of the procurement pack and will be issued to the IT Managers Working Group. A query has also been raised by ANBC, and Guy Middleton is best placed to respond to that. • There is another risk starting to develop; details on dark fibre connections and costs under Milestone 5 as well as the initial connections to Openreach 	

	<p>commercial sites. We are limited in time (31st March) and a call is needed with Guy Middleton to determine what will be presented to DCMS as eligible costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Checkpoint E and Grant Agreement – Revised Grant Variation Letter (GVL) required to reflect actual orders and pricing from Openreach following the movement of sites into Milestone 4b due to Openreach shortfall in December 2021. After 31st March, likely to be another updated GVL and Checkpoint E associated with programme close-down. 	
<p>6</p>	<p>Forward Look for Next Reporting Period</p> <p>MiF outlined the next steps. These were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of Claim 3 by BDUK to NMDDC and issued to all partners. • Checkpoint E change control and revised Grant Variation Letter (GVL). • Claim 4 submission and highlight report. • Steering Group have requested an end of programme report and will come from the highlight report being issued to DCMS. • Checkpoint F close-down and evaluation of programme. • Future PR event to be scheduled post Purdah. • Benefits Realisation and individual case studies. 	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>MiF advised Billy McClean from DCMS, who we have worked with on this project from the early stages is retiring soon. He has been invaluable to the success of FFNI and a good friend to both Guy Middleton and me. He thanked Billy for all his assistance throughout this programme and wished him a happy and healthy retirement.</p> <p>BiM noted, it has been great working with you all. Sometimes we get lost in all the issues and to get 810 sites completed by December 2021 in approx. 9 months is an outstanding achievement. He thanked Michael Forster, Paula Jones and the Operations Group for all their help throughout the lifetime of this project. He wished the project every success and looks forward to seeing all the</p>	

	<p>improvements it is going to provide across Council and Health sites in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>CoM commented, in relation to the SRN update, it may be beneficial to hold a forum or meeting for Councillors to help alleviate their fears of 5G. Alastair Law agreed, with the elections approaching and new Councillors coming into post, it may be a timely opportunity to put that information out there.</p> <p>MiF replied, both Lucie Smith and Gareth Elliott directly update Lisa O’Kane (NILGA). However, it seems as if these reports going into Council are being lost and are not being brought forward to committees. If approved and Councillors are not aware of it, it may have a potentially adverse effect on Council. Therefore, it may be beneficial to establish a coordinated approach amongst Operations Group Leads to speed up the approval process.</p>	
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Highlight Report – 12 May 2022

Contents:

1. Programme Status
2. Summary of Activity
3. Financial Status
4. Risks & Issues

LFFN/RGC Highlight Report 23 March 2022

Reporting Period: 23 Mar 22 – 12 May 2022
(Meeting did not take place in April)

1. Programme Status

Green. (LFFN AND RGC projects delivery element closed)

The DCMS LFFN and RGC projects managed under the FFNI programme finished on the 31st March 2022. This was the official longstop provided by DCMS. Sites completed at this point will be included in the final claim.

2. Summary of Programme Activity within Period

Summary of Key Activities & Deliverables

Summary of Progress

Overview

Since June 2018, Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) has been developing and managing the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium and Programme as the lead Council.

The FFNI Consortium was initially created to help fix the problem of poor digital infrastructure in Northern Ireland as there was a lack of both available and affordable gigabit capable infrastructure in many areas across the region. The Consortium was established as a vehicle to deliver digital funding projects from DCMS and other organisations.

The Consortium is made up of Newry, Mourne and Down (NMDDC), Antrim & Newtownabbey, Ards & North Down, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Causeway Coast and Glens, Derry & Strabane, Fermanagh & Omagh, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Mid & East Antrim, Mid Ulster Councils.

In 2019, another public-sector partner, the Business Services Organisation (BSO) was introduced to the Consortium. The FFNI Team worked with BSO (Business Service Organisation) and DCMS to discuss the addition of BSO's sites to the LFFN procurement to mitigate the risk that the FFNI grant might not be fully spent on council sites alone, and to develop the rationale for this further funding.

DCMS had initially been working with BSO with a view to identifying those of its sites that could be eligible this RGC funding.

BSO delivers a broad range of business support functions for the health and social care sector in Northern Ireland and covers many rural GP surgeries, clinics and hospitals across Northern Ireland.

In discussions with BSO and DCMS, the FFNI Team identified the opportunity to combine RGC and LFFN funding to support the upgrade of some of the FFNI sites. Many of FFNI's council and BSO sites are in rural areas where the commercial market was unlikely to deliver fibre quickly without intervention. BSO sites are frequently in central locations in their communities, and thus they are ideal public-sector hubs;

connecting them with fibre is highly likely to create a bridgehead from which suppliers will deliver fibre to domestic and business premises.

Successful Funding

As the lead partner, NMDDC on behalf of the FFNI Consortium was successful in securing £24m from the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) and Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) challenge funds to assist with the delivery of next generation of full fibre (Gigabit capable).

Procurement

FFNI (NMDDC) ran two procurements in March 2019 to source a suitable supplier to provide Gigabit Connectivity or equivalent services

- Tranche 1 which was made up of rural sites across the Councils / BSO estate and;
- Tranche 2 which was made up of urban sites across partners estate.
- Both Tranches consisted of a single intervention type, Public Sector Anchor Tenant to deliver 971* sites across the whole of Northern Ireland. (*figure at procurement)

Fibrus Networks Limited were identified as the preferred bidder for both Tranches.

The Fibrus solution combined two types of delivery:

- Fibrus Single Fibre Network offering FTTP GPON, XGS-PON and Dark Fibre options
- Openreach Single Fibre Network offering FTTP GPON, EAD and OSA options

Governance

In April 2020, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) recruited an FFNI Operations team which have managed the consortium and administrated all partners claims. The Operations team also act as the link between Fibrus and DCMS for all issues.

Terms of reference were drawn up for an Operations group, steering group and FFNI SRO. A consortium agreement was developed with input from all partners to identify roles and responsibilities of each governance layer.

Achievements and positive aspects

Throughout the project the FFNI Consortium bid and investment process was managed in accordance with the OGC 5 Case Model and a tailored approach to the use of Managing Successful Programmes and Prince2 methodologies.

The original site list of 971 has changed due to descopes, sites being sold or no longer required and several sites not meeting the Longstop date. The final site completed is now 887 sites.

This is a 95% completion rate. Many of the sites not completed were outside of the control of partners and Fibrus. A large number of Openreach Commercial sites were not completed due to Openreach changing their commercial plans in the middle of FFNI delivery.

Delivery of sites

Partner	No of Sites Completed	Dec 21 Site Order
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	2	2
Antrim and Newtownabbey	30	33
Ards and North Down Borough Council	53	57
Business Services Organisation	387	408
Causeway Coast and Glens	47	51
Derry and Strabane District Council	45	50
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	75	76
Lisburn and Castlereagh	36	39
Mid and East Antrim	64	71
Mid Ulster	80	80
Newry, Mourne and Down	68	70
Total:	887	937

Council Borough/Districts	No. sites connected in area
Antrim and Newtownabbey	54
Ards and North Down	78
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	37
Belfast	84
Causeway Coast and Glens	77
Derry City and Strabane	67
Fermanagh and Omagh	114
Lisburn and Castlereagh	55
Mid and East Antrim	90
Mid Ulster	114
Newry Mourne and Down	117
Total	887

Remaining Sites across 4a and 4B

- Two Fibrus sites were not completed within the DCMS extended longstop date 31st March 22 (wayleave/access issues)
 - BSO Summerhill Surgery
 - BSO Ballymoney Health Centre

- 5 FFIB sites were not completed within the DCMS longstop date 31st March 22 (wayleave/access issues)
 - BSO Finaghy Health Centre
 - BSO Greenmount House
 - BSO Lagan Valley Hospital
 - MEA – Tully Quarry
 - MEA – Michelin Council Office Block

- 43 Openreach Commercial sites were unfortunately not completed within the DCMS extended longstop date 31st March 22.
 - See attached sheet for breakdown by partner for all remaining sites.
 - Had Openreach actually delivered what they promised to do so at the time of the procurements FFNI would have landed on a 99% completion rate.
 - Fibrus, FFNI Ops team and FFNI Partners had no control over these.
 - FFNI Ops team have raised this issue again in a lesson learnt report.

Sites not connected by 31st March 2022 fall outside of the DCMS funding window. Partners will be liable for some of the cost of these sites (non infrastructure elements) as per the FFNI contract. FFNI Operations team are currently working with BDUK and Fibrus to determine what costs are eligible and final invoices for claim 5.

If a partner requires that these sites are delivered, they will need to individually contact a Communications provider (CP) and request a cost.

Checkpoint E

FFNI Ops team is now working on the final financial model to cope with the removal of sites. Some costs have been incurred for head end infrastructure and Openreach FFIB relating to these descopes.

New order forms with Fibrus will be created to reflect final outcome and what has been completed across milestones 1-4b.

FFNI Ops team are working with Fibrus and DCMS to determine the likely costs eligible under milestone 5, this is to include a dark fibre option for MUDC.

The financial model will then be used to provide final VFM sensitivity analysis and claim values to DCMS.

Invoices will be issued to partners once this information is available.

Future PR

- DCMS releasing a spring update on 16th May encompassing FFNI and ABC overall progress (Northern Ireland update)
- Video case study on Marble Arch caves under DCMS created. View to create short case studies for all partners. FFNI currently exploring this with DCMS.
- FFNI working with Fibrus on a separate closedown event with key stakeholders and a number of case studies.

Programme - Forward Look for Next Reporting Period

- Operation Group partners please make sure to sign and upload the Annex 2 test certificates where applicable for the final claim. (ANBC and ABC)
- Annex 3 Satisfaction certificates, invoices and final claim values will follow shortly once FFNI have analysed and completed the final financial model and approved through DCMS.
- New order forms and another new Grant Verification Letter / DCMS Checkpoint E will be created again to align with final outcome

3. FINANCIAL STATUS

The financial status of the programme is as follows:

Actual to 30 April 2022	Remaining funding to 30 September (Option2) <small>Staff moved out to September 22 and estimated consultancy.</small>
£694,204 (consultancy and staff since March 2019)	£7,438 Final Claim and Mop Up: July/August 2022 Evaluation and Benefits Realisation: September 2022 FFNI Ops Team / NMDDC reviewing

Decision for Steering group on 19th May to extend Operations Team Staff element to end of September 22 using Option 2 budget. This is to facilitate final PR Event, assist with WAN migration and procure an evaluation/benefits realisation for the programme.

Evaluation is likely to be completed in June 23, after WAN migration (required date: Dec 22)

Consultancy costs:

- Jan 2021 £0.00
- Feb 2021 £713
- Mar 2021 £4293.75
- Apr 2021 £6412.50
- May 2021 £2,375.00
- June 2021 £1,425.00
- July 2021 £2612.50
- Aug 2021 – £4513.50
- Sep 2021 - £4878.25
- Oct 2021 - £4987.24
- Nov 2021 - £3,063.75
- Dec 2021 - £1,425.00
- Jan 2022 - £1,900.00
- Feb 2022 - £1662.50
- Mar 2022 - £1633.00
- April 2022- £1633.00

4. RISKS AND ISSUES

Please see accompanying FFNI Programme Risk Log.

REFAZ:G 2	Name	Customer	Risk Description	Impact	Category	Risk Owner	Original Risk			Mitigating Actions	FFNI	Date of Last Review	Current Risk			Status
							Probability 5 - Very Likely 4 - Highly Likely 3 - Possible 2 - Unlikely 1 - Rare	Impact 5 - Fundamental 4 - Major 3 - Moderate 2 - Minor 1 - Not significant	Risk Score >16 Red 11-16 Amber 7-10 Yellow <7 Green				Probability 5 - Very Likely 4 - Highly Likely 3 - Possible 2 - Unlikely 1 - Rare	Impact 5 - Fundamental 4 - Major 3 - Moderate 2 - Minor 1 - Not significant	Risk Score >16 Red 11-16 Amber 7-10 Yellow <7 Green	
66	Remaining Sites after Dec 21 Longstop date (Fibrus/FFIB)	FFNI	Wayleaves with 3rd parties (NIHE and EA). Delays incurred by openreach due to assumption of existing wayleaves for BSO. Delays from openreach in responding to SSRAMS despite all authorisations from FFNI Partners.	Sites missed in Dec 21 Claim period. May affect DCMS drawdown and site count could be lower than Press Releases. This risk includes Fibrus, FFIB and to a lesser degree Commercial Rollout sites.	Internal/External	MIF	5	4	20	No further sites allowed through DCMS funding. Total final site list 887	19/04/22 2 Fibrus sites not completed. 5 FFIB not completed. 43 Openreach sites not completed. FFNI Ops team reviewing impact on financial model and any charges incurred by partners. No charges for Commercial Rollout sites. 28/01/22 35 FFIB and Fibrus sites still outstanding however Fibrus sites and 10 FFIB are progressing now. These are now scheduled to be built in Feb 2022. For the remaining FFIB sites (19) FFNI has demanded that openreach prioritise these sites. Conversation with OR CEO Garrett Kavanagh, OR putting more resources to meet 31st March target. Sites currently in Milestone 4a (29 DP/28FFIB - 57) are not thought to be at risk and OR have reported that these are progressing. Several of these were also built out for MS4. FFNI and Fibrus to monitor mid March 22. 13/01/21 Several FFIB sites flagged as may not be connected by February 2022 despite OR telling Fibrus to request extension for this date. As a result the FFNI Consortium has sent a letter to OR requesting that these sites are prioritised and that in most of these cases deals have actually been incurred by OR and internal mapping and change of terms of wayleaves causing implications in terms of the speed of delivery. FFNI Partners have been informed that if the delay is incurred by their own organisation they may be liable for costs (i.e. customer cause).	10/05/2022	5	3	15	Open
64	Openreach Pricing Changes at each quote	FFNI	Recent quotes from Openreach higher for sites Openreach quote only valid for 30 days. Decisions often take much longer than this to resolve.	Avg site costs rise for OR related sites	External	MIF	4	4	16	Adding and removing sites distributes fixed costs over more or fewer sites, so the average price changes. The total price per site is the total of all the fixed and variable price elements. Order forms may change slightly at	10/05/22 No change to Openreach FFIB site list price for FFIB sites. FFNI to provide more info to BDUK on financial model for claim. 16/11/21 New risk raised as result of the recent Openreach quotes. FFNI Ops team, Fibrus and DCMS to monitor. 08/07/21 OR prices are not fixed. Adding and removing sites distributes fixed costs over more or fewer sites, so the average price changes. Also Openreach quote only valid for 30 days. Decisions often take much longer than this to resolve. Delays incurred by OR.	10/05/2022	4	5	20	Open
60	Migration Evidence from Fibrus	FFNI	WAN migration to new FFNI Fibre	Risk of extra work to demonstrate migration Risk that DCMS might claw back funding	External	GuM	3	4	12	Need to continue to press DCMS for clarity in Grant Agreement about "Retail Provider" etc	10/05/22 Fibrus to setup meeting with BSO re: NIPSSN sites. GuM to inform Councils on ABC framework. WAN element is outside the scope of the current FFNI infrastructure arrangements. 12/01/22 GuM requested to setup a call with all partners regarding the ABC Council Framework and later a Fibrus briefing. DCMS to provide info on eligible costs for Milestone 5 13/09/21 Migration information and plan required from Fibrus. Urgent WAN workshop required via ABC. FFNI IT managers and leads need to also contribute. 14/08/21 ABC / FFNI and GuM to pick up with Councils re progress on ABC WAN framework. GuM to pick up with NIPSSN and BSO. Eligible costs to be claimed by longstop. 23/05/21: FFNI and ABC to setup joint workshop to discuss next steps re: WAN onboarding using FFNI gigabit services. Eligible funding in MSS from DCMS. Funding required to be drawn down by FFNI Longstop. 07/11 Partners should explore the WAN arrangements and possible ABC framework. 20/09: GA text updated to clarify, but still need to agree with DCMS what evidence will be required at Required Date	10/05/2022	4	4	16	Open
65	FFNI Ops Team Budget	FFNI	Original budget as requested as Option 3 no longer viable due to increasingly complex issues Longstop date moved from Mar to Dec 2021	FFNI Ops team is not resourced properly	Internal	MIF	5	5	25	Decision for FFNI Steering Group to fund FFNI ops team on to September 22 based on Option 2 calculations (Jan 2020)	03/05/22 Several key tasks delayed due to purdah and final data for financial model / claim. Currently budgeted up to June 2022 but may require extending to September to close FFNI infrastructure element down. 05/02 - FFNI Steering Group agreed option for future support to June. BSO have payed upfront. Councils decided in Jan 2020 to go with a prorata approach for further support.	10/05/2022	4	4	16	Open
74	Openreach Commercial Plans may fall outside Dec 21 longstop date	FFNI	Openreach sites not completed/	Sites may not be connected within timescale. Onboarding costs after March 2022 not eligible	External	All partners	4	4	16	Openreach Commercial Sites	14/04/22 43 Openreach Commercial plans not completed. Outside of OR's plans. Councils will have to fund these sites individually outside of DCMS funding arrangements. Partners to liaise directly with Openreach or a CP.	10/05/2022	5	4	20	Open