Project Mandate

VERSION 5 22.08.2022

1 - PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name:	**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS) Local Top-up**
Project Location/ Address, including Post Code and Local Authority Area:	South Yorkshire – Subject to GBVS eligibility
Organisation Name, Size & Company Registration Number (if applicable):	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority 11 Broad Street West Sheffield S1 2BQ
Is your organisation an SME? If so, state size of organisation (Micro, Small or Medium)	N/A
Contact Name and Role:	Martin Owens – Group Leader Superfast South Yorkshire Joshua Jordan Clough – Project Officer
Address:	Westgate Plaza One, PO Box 634, Barnsley, S70 9GG
Email:	martinowens@barnsley.gov.uk joshuaclough@barnsley.gov.uk
Telephone:	Martin Owens Mob: 07736460759 Landline: 01226 787317
Other Delivery Partners and Roles:	**Building Digital UK (BDUK)** – The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme is managed by (BDUK) and has vouched funded by the UK Gigabit Programme. **Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. (DCMS)** - BDUK is an executive agency, sponsored by DCMS. **Suppliers to the GBVS –** Registered suppliers agree to the following conditions: ● The ability to supply gigabit capable connectivity ● Agreement to the scheme **terms and conditions;** top-up terms can be found **here.** ● Agree to submit at least one pre-registered package/project for review ● Membership of an Ofcom-recognised alternative dispute resolution scheme ● Have in place at least £5m of public liability insurance **Superfast South Yorkshire –** Promotion and aggregation of voucher projects

Estimated total project cost	The minimum funding requirement is £500,000. BDUK Local Delivery Lead and BDUK Local Delivery Managers will be the point of contact for any queries from Local Bodies about their Top Up Scheme. Local Bodies will receive the following reports on the status of their top up schemes: • Monthly top up report detailing all live vouchers with a top up • Quarterly invoicing report to supports (x2) to show value to be invoiced to LB (one for the Admin Fee for projects published, one for vouchers paid) The Operations team will monitor the Top Up budget throughout the scheme. Once the budget hits 80% this will be flagged. LDL will contact the LB to advise and confirm next steps: 1. Arrange for Operations to monitor the budget more closely and close the Top Up with 5 days' notice (closure of the top up is managed by the vouchers functional team) 2. LB to add more funding and the LoA / MoU is amended We will pay DCMS an administration fee of £50, quarterly in arrears, for every project application reviewed by DCMS that has a Top-Up Funding element in their Top-Up area. This fee has been worked out based on the additional work BDUK need to do with setting up and maintaining the Top Up and the reviewing of additional projects. Costs associated with establishing new top-up agreements are created through: • Partner engagement - opportunity cost only no direct increase in overall opex • Governance - as above • Internal management (set up phase): updating online content, exchange of agreements, • reporting configuration • Data ingestion - UPRNs • Internal management (live phase): reporting systems, invoicing etc • Operating platform amendments Please see Local Body Guidance - Local Body Onboarding for Top Ups for more detail Precise costs will therefore be dependent on the number of projects supported by vouchers which are delivered. To date broadband voucher schemes in South Yorkshire have supported 84 projects (see below). Should this scale of projects be delivered via the local top up scheme, then costs would be in the region of £4,200.

	<table><tr><th>Voucher Scheme</th><th>Distinct Count of Project</th><th></th></tr><tr><td>GBVS</td><td>74</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Rural</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>UKGV</td><td>1</td><td>(There are 2x additional projects currently being worked on via voucher priority areas)</td></tr><tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>82 (84)</td><td></td></tr></table>

2 – SOCIAL VALUE ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

2.1 Please confirm how you intend to comply with the eligibility conditions for accessing support from the Mayoral Combined Authority. Full details of the conditions, why they are important and examples of how they can be achieved and measured can be found here https://governance.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=10630

The conditions and your current position (taking into account your organisation size and level of funding sought) will be discussed and will form part of your contractual obligations

Conditions	How is your organisation currently delivering against these conditions? (e.g. have you achieved, are you working towards or is it not yet something you are doing?)	What evidence do you have for your current position? How will you measure future change?	Please provide any further details here
1.Pay Real Living Wage to full and part time employees, for regularly contracted hours and overtime	Unknown at present. BDUK will administer the top up scheme, and voucher beneficiaries will be suppliers delivering individual schemes where vouchers are eligible.		
2. Ensure secure work for employees, with zero hours contracts only for those who want them			
3. Spend more with local suppliers in South Yorkshire, particularly with SMEs and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector	The top up voucher scheme will make the delivery of gigabit capable connections in South Yorkshire more viable. This will enable greater delivery than the market alone would deliver, potentially including local suppliers.		
4. Empower employees to be informed about the			

business and involved in decision-making			
5. Enhance workforce diversity			
6. Offer more pathways into employment through work experience, placements, internships and apprenticeships	This will be dependent on the specific suppliers benefiting from the vouchers upon project completion; however, increasing the viability of delivering connections within South Yorkshire may improve the ability of suppliers to support pathways into employment.		
7. Support staff progress in the organisation through training and development	This will be dependent on the specific suppliers benefiting from the vouchers upon project completion; however, increasing the viability of delivering connections within South Yorkshire may improve the ability of suppliers to support training and development opportunities.		
8. Engage with local communities	Residents and businesses in SY are eligible for top up vouchers where they satisfy certain criteria.		
9. Achieve Net Zero	Cebr research suggests that by enabling more people to work from home, a Full Fibre nation could save 300 million commuting trips each year – with three billion fewer kilometres travelled by car		
10. Create a healthy workplace			

3 – PROJECT SUMMARY

3.1 – Tell us about the project

Please provide a summary description of your project and what you intend to achieve. Why are you looking to embark on this project? What do you want to achieve? What is the problem you want to address or what is the opportunity? What is the project about?

The South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy (SYDIS) identifies that around 170,000 premises in the region (20% of total premises) are not scheduled to receive 'gigabit-capable' broadband by the industry over the next 5 years.

Through the UK Gigabit Voucher Scheme (GBVS) the Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas, Vouchers worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses[1] help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband. Businesses or residents that are eligible for gigabit vouchers can access the scheme through a registered supplier who will develop a project proposal for that area. Some of the projects that are part of the scheme have hundreds of connections supported with vouchers, others have just a handful.

The GBVS is managed by BDUK, the voucher is a subsidy from the government to help with the cost of gigabit-capable technology. It means that the new connection must be able to give you the potential for a broadband connection speed of at least 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps). Beneficiaries only need to purchase a 100 Mbps package to satisfy the voucher conditions. The funding is paid directly to the supplier once the installation has been completed.

Local authorities across the UK have been using some of their own budget to "top-up" these vouchers, which doubles their value (i.e. up to £3,000 for homes and £7,000 for businesses). The advantage of a larger voucher value is that suppliers can deploy gigabit capable infrastructure into the hardest to reach rural areas, where the cost of build would have exceeded what the original vouchers could cover.

The Delivery Plan accompanying the SYDIS identifies a short-term priority action (within the next two years) around supporting gigabit connectivity rollouts, including exploring funding a "top up" of the Gigabit broadband voucher system to further incentivise rural deployment. Whilst it is likely that some of the 170,000 premises identified above will be picked up by the upcoming project gigabit procurement, it is unlikely that all will. The deployment of a local Gigabit voucher top up scheme will therefore help to support delivery of gigabit capable connections (where eligible) in addition to project gigabit.

This project would commit £0.5m of SYMCA funding to deliver a local top-up voucher scheme in South Yorkshire, plus an additional £50 per project administration cost. This would be drawn from clawback funding which is being returned to SYMCA as part of the Superfast South Yorkshire Open Reach contracts. The scheme would be administered by BDUK alongside the national voucher scheme. This funding would be distributed to suppliers on successful connection where eligible residents and businesses have claimed the vouchers.

There are no spend timescales for the national funding, and currently around £138m of the £210m funding remains available (taking account of completed schemes and pipeline projects). The local top-up voucher scheme would cease either when the national voucher scheme funds or the £0.5m local funding has been depleted unless additional funding is committed. The local top up scheme can also be withdrawn at any time by SYMCA. Any unspent funding remaining when the local top up scheme ceases would be returned to SYMCA.

The specific operation of the local top up voucher scheme is to be determined and would be agreed via a Memorandum of understanding with BDUK. There is flexibility to determine the additional voucher values for homes and businesses, and to introduce geographical restrictions. Further analysis will be

[1] The acceptable voucher value for each project is determined by BDUK depending upon the circumstances of each scheme and the costs of delivering connections. This applies to both the national scheme and the local top up scheme.

required to identify the preferred operation of a South Yorkshire local top up voucher scheme. Below is a summary of how previous and current DCMS voucher schemes have performed in South Yorkshire to date. Over 80 projects have been supported to improve broadband connections with **£1,729,659** of funding approved and a further £153,000 in the pipeline)

	GBVS			
	Connected			
	No. vouchers	Sum of Voucher value		
South Yorkshire	736	£1,267,159.00		

	Rural			
	Connected		Pipeline	
	No. vouchers	Sum of Voucher value	No. vouchers	Sum of Voucher value
South Yorkshire	274	£453,000.00	63	£106,500.00

	UKGV			
	Connected		Pipeline	
	Sum of No. vouchers	Sum of Voucher value	No. vouchers	Sum of Voucher value
South Yorkshire	18	£9,500.00	91	£46,500.00

"GBVS" = vouchers that are part of the Local Fibre Networks Programme of £57m
"Rural" = vouchers that are part of the Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme of £200m
"UKGV" = vouchers that are part of the Project Gigabit Programme of up to £210m
"Connected" = approved + paid
"Pipeline" = supplier requested + email validated + BDUK approved

Superfast South Yorkshire have been working with communities to aggregate their vouchers and get projects off the ground with suppliers since 2018. We take a proactive approach in identifying pockets of premises that can deliver wholly voucher supported projects, with no funding gap for the community to find. Below is an example supported by BMBC, two projects in Tankersley and Billingley progressed to build and are now live.

Below is a current example where the community is being supported by SFSY and the local MP.

What do you hope to achieve by delivering the project?

When broadband providers decide where to build infrastructure, they are essentially making a commercial judgement on whether it is profitable. There are a range of potential factors that will impact that judgement. Rural and remote areas are typically more expensive to deliver broadband to. This is because the geography and terrain in many rural areas – such as long distances between properties and inaccessible areas – increase the cost of installing new cables. Additionally, low population densities reduce the financial returns that operators receive from customers buying services.

The table below shows a breakdown of the ~21k premises currently eligible for the GBVS in South Yorkshire.

Local Authority	Postcodes eligible for GBVS	Total Premises Count of Postcodes eligible for GBVS
Barnsley	517	6,992
Doncaster	500	7,782
Rotherham	205	3,331
Sheffield	170	3,193
Grand Total	**1,392**	**21,298**

By incorporating commercial data from our latest Open Market Review (OMR) and filtering out premises with at least one gigabit capable broadband provider, the numbers do not change significantly. Meaning it is unlikely any gigabit capable broadband infrastructure will be developed in the next 3 years, or the supplier plans have been judged as at risk of not being completed.

Row Labels	Postcodes eligible for GBVS	Total Premises Count of Postcodes eligible for GBVS
Barnsley	511	6,937
Doncaster	478	7,515
Rotherham	203	3,317
Sheffield	150	2,788
Grand Total	**1,342**	**20,557**

It is likely that some of these premises will be picked up by the upcoming project gigabit procurement, but it is unlikely that all will.

By providing a local voucher top up we will give rural and remote areas the best possible chance of an upgrade to gigabit capable broadband.

At present it is unknown how many homes and businesses would be supported; however, SYMCA and Superfast South Yorkshire would have a proactive role in promoting the voucher scheme and stimulating demand for projects.

4 – STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

4.1 – Using the table below, please set out which of the MCA's Core Strategic Outcomes (Stronger, Fairer and Greener), as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan and Renewal Action Plan, your programme/project will contribute to.

Projects that deliver against at least one indicator from all three of Strategic Outcomes (Stronger, Greener, Fairer) are more likely to be prioritised for investment.

Useful links:

For details of the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)
https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/getmedia/4256c890-d568-42c8-8aa5-c8232a5d1bfd/SCR_SEP_Full_Draft_Jan_21-(accesssible).pdf
For details of the Renewal Action Plan (RAP)
https://southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/getmedia/bf2c27b2-a5c7-4ac5-ac64-b4f8798df095/Sheffield-City-Region-Renewal-Action-Plan-Document-Final.pdf

Theme	Indicator	Outcome	Contribution from this Programme/Project e.g. increase in [outcome] of x [number/%] by y [year]. Please be specific as you possibly can be at this stage of the project.
Stronger – Achieve sustained, inclusive growth, underpinned by productivity gains that matches the UK average	**Productivity per hour worked**	A higher productivity workforce	Cebr research At the same time, the time saved commuting would both create more leisure and increase productivity. Potentially annual GVA could be boosted by £59 billion by 2025.
	High growth business	A larger proportion of high growth businesses	
	Business density	More businesses in the area, relative to population	Cebr research suggests Over 270,000 people could potentially move away from London and other major cities and into suburban and rural areas. Over 93,000 more people could choose to work in rural communities compared to the present day. Non-metro areas across the North could see significant boosts in residential levels – with over 43,000 more people choosing to live in these areas.
Greener – Drive forward environmental sustainability to achieve our net-zero carbon target by 2040	**Flooding**	Better protect over 17,000 homes and businesses, and regionally significant infrastructure across South Yorkshire	
	Carbon emissions	Reduced carbon emissions	Cebr research suggests that by enabling more people to work from home, a Full Fibre nation could save 300 million commuting trips each year – with three billion fewer kilometres travelled by car
	Carbon intensity of transport network	Improved carbon intensity	
Fairer – Unlock prosperity by eliminating the wage gap and other inequalities (particularly health) with South Yorkshire and between South Yorkshire and the national	**Economic inactivity & unemployment**	Fewer people are economically inactive and unemployed	The Cebr research indicated that making it easy for people to work from home would be likely to bring 450,000 people whose primary task is caring, 150,000 people over 65 and 125,000 people with dependent children into the labour force.
	Wage levels	A lower proportion of employees on low earnings	
	Qualifications & skills	A higher proportion of working-age population possess higher qualifications, indicating	

average and by improving standards of living for disadvantaged communities		progression in education and employment.	
	Personal Wellbeing	Improved personal wellbeing (as measured by indicators on feeling life is worthwhile, life satisfaction, happiness, and anxiety).	

5 – SYMCA SUPPORT REQUIRED

5.1 How can the South Yorkshire MCA support the delivery of the project?

If you know what support you need from the MCA, please state this here (include the funding programme if known). This includes any financial or in-kind support and when you will need this. For financial support, a range estimate will suffice at this stage.

Please note that the MCA wishes to use its limited funding in a way that that creates a self-sustaining fund and will therefore usually seek a return for our investment. Applicants are required to discuss and agree the broad outline of any financial investment you may be seeking with the relevant MCA Executive Officer, prior to submitting this form. [Grant would be the funding option of last resort

Financial – (Grant – No ROI) – c£0.5m. This will consist of:

- £0.5m funding for the local top up voucher scheme (this is the minimum local contribution required).
- £50 / project administration fee. The precise costs will depend on the number of projects supported by the top up vouchers. Could be in the low £'000s.

5.2 Please provide details of any funding secured and/or details of other funders you are approaching.

The local top up would supplement the £210m provided by the Government for gigabit broadband vouchers to help rural communities and businesses. Without the top up some communities might be deterred from advancing with the GBVS due to the funding gap or even because of the potential for one.

5.3 What additionality will MCA investment bring?

What would happen with MCA intervention that wouldn't happen without it?
What would happen without MCA intervention?

In the absence of top-up funding, the national GBVS would enable some local delivery of gigabit-capable connections in South Yorkshire beyond what the market would normally deliver; however, the advantage of a local top up scheme which results in a larger overall voucher value is that suppliers can deploy gigabit capable infrastructure into the hardest to reach rural areas, where the cost of build would have exceeded what the original vouchers could cover.

6 - CONSULTATION

6.1 – Who have you consulted with about the project idea?

Please insert South Yorkshire MCA	Colin Blackburn, Muz Mumtaz, Joseph Quinn, Ryan Shepherd
Local Authority	BMBC are the BDUK local body / SFSY lead authority
Other consultees, for example:	
Local community	
Relevant businesses	Openreach, CityFibre, VM02, PineMedia
Environment Agency	N/A
Planning Authority	N/A
Highway Authority	N/A
Please insert others as appropriate	BDUK Local Delivery Lead – Lucy Robertson

7 – TIMESCALES FOR DELIVERY	
7.1 – What is the preferred date that the project can commence delivery? If this is currently unknown, please set out your proposed next steps below	
[Please advise the date and any dependencies] The top up voucher scheme is currently paused to allow BDUK to establish a stable Intervention Area (IA) that details the properties eligible for funding under Project Gigabit. It is expected that the voucher scheme will re-open between November 2023 and January 2024 (see section 8 below for detail). The local top up voucher scheme would come into force when the national scheme is un-paused.	
6.2 – If currently known, please outline the key milestones required to deliver the project and provide forecast dates for achievement. **[*e.g. complete outline design, secure all funding, procurement complete, statutory processes complete*]**	
Business Justification Case approval	**SYMCA Housing & Infrastructure Board 2022**
Local top up voucher MoU signed	**March 2023 – please see Local Body Guidance - Local Body Onboarding for Top Ups for example timeline**
Local top up vouchers available	**-November 2023 and January 2024 (when national top up voucher scheme un-paused)**

8 – DEPENDENCIES

8.1 – Is the project linked to or dependent on any other project or activity, especially one the MCA may be involved in?
BDUK Lot 20 Project Gigabit Procurement (South Yorkshire) The GBVS paused on 18th July 2022. The pause is required to allow BDUK to establish a stable Intervention Area (IA) that details the properties eligible for funding under the procurement. This is required as suppliers need static data to develop a delivery proposal and comprehensive financial model as part of the bid process. Once the potential IA is know for the purposes of the procurement, work would begin with local communities/businesses outside the areas that neither industry or the IA will cover to seek to stimulate demand in advance of the GBVS reopening in Winter 2023. Also, once the voucher scheme fully reopens after contract award, a full review will be undertaken to identify properties outside of any delivery plans and to confirm the top up amount per voucher to ensure the voucher values offer sufficient subsidy to make very rural and hard to reach parts of South Yorkshire viable to fibre network providers. with a view to working with communities and GBVS registered suppliers to re-open or develop new projects.
8.2 – Are there any statutory processes required for you to deliver the project?
N/A

Please attach any document(s) or provide links to reference material that support any of the information presented above.

Local Body Guidance - Local Body Onboarding for Top Ups

External Local Body Onboarding for Top

Document Sign Off

9 – DECLARATION AND SIGN OFF
On signing the Project Mandate Form the project sponsoring organisation agrees to the following: 1. *The South Yorkshire (SY) Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) is a public body and is therefore subject to information/transparency laws and the Local Government Transparency Code 2015. This Project Mandate Form will be shared with the appropriate SYMCA Boards including the MCA and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). In line with legislation, papers to the MCA and LEP meetings are published in advance and made publicly available. These papers will detail the applicant and summarise the Mandate Form in sufficient detail to allow the members to take an informed decision. At this point, under Local Government access to information provisions, the Mandate Form may have to be made available for inspection to any member of the public who requests it.* *Once a project is admitted onto our programme pipeline, in line with MCA's Assurance and Accountability Framework and Freedom of Information Act (FOI) Publication Project, the Mandate Form must be published on the applicant's and the SYMCA website.* *For this purpose, you may wish to also send a redacted copy stating any exemption or exception applied under FOI or Environmental Information Regulations. We will consider any requested redaction. Any comments received after publication are required to be reflected in SOBC, the OBC and FBC if the project progresses further. MCA will require evidence of this through the assurance process.* 2. *MCA support is not allocated to a project at this stage. The Project Mandate Form is the means by which the MCA can accept project ideas into the Programme Pipeline. Further project development and submission of SOBC, OBC and FBC or BJC in line with the Assurance Framework will be required.* 3. *To the best of your knowledge all the information provided in this Project Mandate Form is true and correct. You acknowledge that the information provided will inform any future contract should a decision be made to support the project.* 4. *You will comply with due diligence requirements appropriate to this project. This will be conducted by the SYMCA Executive Team and further details will be provided if the project progresses further.*

Person responsible for the application (Chief Executive or relevant Executive Director in your organisation)	
Name:	John Dowie
Role:	Executive Director Infrastructure and Place, SYMCA
Date:	22 September 2022

Counter signatory – Director of Finance	
Name:	Gareth Sutton
Role:	Executive Director of Finance, SYMCA
Date:	tbc

Signature of the appropriate thematic Director in the SYMCA	
Name:	John Dowie
Role:	Executive Director Infrastructure and Place, SYMCA
Date:	22 September 2022

For MCA Use Only	
Programme/Project Reference Number:	
Date Received/ Accepted:	
Version Number:	
Summary of Amendments: (if applicable)	
Resource implications for the MCA	*Key staff resources or functional team involvement required to deliver the project. These could be expert consultants (external) or internal functions (e.g. procurement team, HR, Tram Concession Manager, Active Travel team etc).*