

Scrutiny Officer update 14th January 2019

1. Community Engagement Working Group

The Working Group has completed its final report which has been circulated to Members of the full Scrutiny Committee. An update on progress will be provided at the March meeting.

2. Statement of Community Involvement

The Committee has queried the consultation process undertaken for the Tiverton Masterplan and other consultations such as the Cullompton Relief Road.

In light of these queries it has been suggested the proposed revised Statement of Community Involvement be tabled at the February Scrutiny meeting prior to Cabinet (March) and Full Council (April).

3. Impact of Brexit

At the request of the Chair a report on the likely local impact of Brexit will be provided by the Director of Finance in February. Top issues for Councils identified by the Local Government Association include procurement, food safety and standards, waste, and state aid.

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/5.39%20Brexit_v06WEB.pdf

The impact on local councils if there was no deal has also been explored.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/brexit-no-deal-briefing-councils>

4. Broadband in Mid Devon

A recent report (attached) provided on the 27th November 2018 to the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee of Devon County Council outlined the challenges of providing broadband across Devon and Somerset. It is noted that Gigaclear have failed to meet their contractual commitments and a remedial plan has been put in place that is currently under review by Connecting Devon and Somerset. It is also noted that Gigaclear has been taken over by Infracapital who have committed to the same level of investment (£127M). The report also outlines the practical challenges of the roll-out and a proposal for a new build methodology to be put in place that should improve the situation.

The Chair has written to Keri Denton, Head of Economy, Enterprise and Skills, Devon County Council, inviting representatives from Connecting Devon and Somerset/Gigaclear to provide a detailed update on the roll-out in Mid Devon. It is anticipated they will attend the meeting in March 2019.