

Committee: Full Council

Date: Tuesday 9
April 2019

Title: Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic
Development

**Portfolio
Holder:** Cllr Howard Ryles, Portfolio Holder for
Economic Development

Summary

1. This report provides an update on all the ongoing key economic development activities.

Recommendations

2. That Council note the Economic Development update and comment as considered appropriate.

Financial Implications

3. Included in the report below.

Background Papers

4. No background papers.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	N/a
Community Safety	N/a
Equalities	N/a
Health and Safety	N/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/a
Sustainability	N/a
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	N/a

Situation

6. The economic development update is provided below under the key project headings

Saffron Walden Business Improvement District

- A part-time BID Manager, Louise Scutt-Richter, has been appointed.
- The “Saffron Walden BID Business Plan 2019 and beyond” has been drafted and submitted to the Board for approval. This will provide a comprehensive and detailed plan for activities to deliver against the previously agreed priorities.

Superfast Broadband

- Superfast Essex has reported that it forecasts 97.8% coverage of superfast broadband in Uttlesford by the end of July 2020.
- Gigaclear contractors are laying the fibre in various locations across the district. This will cause some short term disruption to these locations. Gigaclear has people and plans in place to communicate in advance and be available to respond to any issues as and when they arise.
- The Gigaclear Birchanger cabinet is now live enabling the first 212 premises to benefit from ultra- fast broadband. .

Digital Innovation Zone Strategy

- We have submitted a Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Proposal to the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). The proposal would implement an infrastructure investment programme that delivers full-fibre broadband connections to all GP practices in the DIZ area under. The proposal is seeking full funding of £3.6million from the DCMS LFFN Challenge Fund.

Uttlesford Business Awards

- The 2019 Business Awards have been launched with local publicity encouraging businesses to enter. More information and an application form is available at www.uttlesfordbusinessawards.co.uk

Car Parking

- An application for funding has been submitted to NEPP’s On-Street Funding Reserve.
- As part of the procurement process we are currently investigating the option of upgrading the existing ticket machines.
- The Economic Development Team continues to work with local residents and stakeholders to find solutions to the parking issues in St Johns Road, Stansted Mountfitchet and Caton’s Lane/Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden.

Garden Communities

- Work is starting on a brief to support the development of local economic strategies for the garden communities.

Tourism

- An SLA has been agreed with Visit Essex.

Future High Street Fund

- An Expression of Interest was submitted on Friday 22nd March 2019. This was focused on the Saffron Walden town centre and need for a town with medieval DNA to meet the needs of a 21st century population.
- All applications will be moderated following an initial assessment. They are required to score above a minimum threshold, or pass mark for each question. The Secretary of State will make the final decisions about which proposals will progress to Phase 2 if the Fund is oversubscribed.