

**Committee:** Council

**Date:**

**Title:** Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

Tuesday 4 June 2018

**Report Author:** Councillor Howard Ryles, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

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## 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. None.

## Situation

- 5 The economic development update is provided below under the key project headings
6. Saffron Walden Business Improvement District
  - Saffron Walden BID company (limited by guarantee) has been registered with Companies House.
  - To date of the £94k per annum total BID levy being collected by the Council's Business Rate Team on behalf of the BID £80.1k has been collected leaving £13.9k still to be collected. The amount remaining equates to some 54 businesses out of the total in the BID area of 278 liable to pay the BID levy.
  - An extensive marketing campaign is being delivered by the BID including utilising a vintage bus to bring those people visiting the miniature railway and Audley End House up into the centre of town.
7. Broadband
  - Superfast Essex has advised the Council that the Gigaclear delivery of Phase 3 of superfast broadband in Uttlesford is approximately 6 months behind schedule with a completion date now of July 2020. The delay is national and Gigaclear report that this is due to the complexity of the installation of fibre in

rural locations and that they have been successful in winning a number of contracts resulting in their resources being overstretched. They have and are adding to their resources as quickly as possible.

- The draft of the Essex-Herts Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ) “a local strategy to secure future prosperity and health” is now available and being circulated.

#### 8. Uttlesford Business Breakfast

- The annual business breakfast was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at Chesterford Research Park with the theme of “Digital Innovation” and was attended by over 80 local businesses and organisations. Key note speakers were Dean Russell of Epifny Consulting who spoke on “smart business” and Martin Garratt of Cambridge CleanTech who spoke on “smart places.”

#### 9. Uttlesford Business Awards

- The Business Awards Gala Dinner was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- The 2019 business awards commence in October this year

#### 10. Business Website

- The Economic Development team have worked closely with Bruce Tice, other council departments and external agencies on a draft business focused website. The aim of the website is to provide a one-stop-shop for local businesses who are looking for advice and/or support for their business or business idea.