

North Yorkshire Council

Executive Members

8th September 2023

Approval for funding application - Department of Science, Innovation and Technology
(DSIT) 5G Innovation Region Bid.

Report of the Director of Transformation.

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To request approval from the Executive Member for Open for Business following consultation with the Director of Transformation, the Chief Operating Officer of York and North Yorkshire LEP, and the Corporate Director Resources to authorise the submission of an application for grant funding of £3.8m.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has invited bids from UK local authorities for a share of £40m funding under a new “5G Innovation Regions” programme. Under the competition guidance each successful bid will be awarded up to £3.8m in funding (no match funding is required), and all funded activities will need to be completed by 31 March 2025.

2.2 The objectives of the programme are that the 5G Innovation Regions will;

2.2.1 Drive Economic growth in places by supporting places in adopting wireless connectivity for services based around local opportunities for growth.

2.2.2 Accelerate commercial investment in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand.

2.2.3 Foster the emergent 5G ecosystem by enabling “learning by doing”

2.3 The DSIT guidance makes it clear that the 5G Innovation Regions are not designed to increase wireless coverage, but rather to bring together, at scale, multiple use cases within a 5G Innovation Region. The outcome of this is to demonstrate the benefits of accelerated 5G adoption

2.4 The timeline associated with this bid is:

- 1st August 2023 – launch of bid window
- 10th September 2023 – submission deadline for applications
- Mid/Late October 2023 – Successful applicants notified
- November 2023 – Project mobilisation
- November 2023 – 31 March 2025 – Grant funding period

2.5 Funding will be provided on an upfront annual basis, with quarterly reporting and amending (as required) to DSIT.

- 2.6 DSIT has stipulated that the funding will be applied through a “no subsidy” route to local authorities, i.e. as an intragovernmental funding transfer, from DSIT to local authority, under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022.
- 2.7 North Yorkshire County (NYCC) Council successfully participated in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) funded 5G Testbed and Trials (2020-22) programme, developing a wealth of experience in advanced wireless connectivity use cases and understanding the benefit of connectivity in a local area.
- 2.8 NYCC also successfully bid for and oversaw the delivery of a Digital Infrastructure Programme (funded through the Getting Building Fund), which connected business parks to Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN), installed free Public Wi-Fi and a LoRaWAN network across North Yorkshire through Nynet Ltd (aswell as rolling out Superfast Broadband – funded through BDUK).
- 2.9 This uniquely positions NYC with existing infrastructure that will enable the rapid delivery of case studies required as part of this bid. This funding is viewed as an opportunity to build on these government funded programmes of work, enabling a broader application of advanced wireless connectivity across North Yorkshire, and addressing some of the key challenges captured within the NYC Council plan 2023-27.

3.0 5G INNOVATION REGIONS BID

- 3.1 Having engaged with City of York (CoY), it has been agreed that the bid will be jointly submitted from both organisations, with NYC acting as the lead authority. This takes advantage of the close links between both organisations through the York and North Yorkshire devolution deal, and the work towards becoming a Combined Authority.
- 3.2 Due to the tight timescales associated with the bid window, a rapid engagement exercise has been undertaken across NYC and CoY (and partners) to shape a range of use cases informed by:
- Key policies and strategies
 - Programmes of work underway
 - Opportunities to maximise the benefits of use cases
 - Feasibility of delivery within the funding timescales (by 31st March 2025)
- 3.3 The bid will contain use cases which sit under three high level themes, with multiple use cases sitting under each theme:
- Digital skills, inclusion and practise
 - Tourism & economic growth
 - Environment, infrastructure and agri-tech
- 3.4 If the bid is successful further work will be required (as part of the mobilisation period) to rapidly develop detailed plans for delivery, as well as creating a project team required to deliver the work required.
- 3.5 During the mobilisation phase, each use case will be rapidly developed with the production of:
- Stakeholder engagement plans
 - Climate Change, Data Protection and Equality Impact analyses
 - Timelines
 - Detailed delivery budgets

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The alternative option considered is to not bid for funding and has been rejected. This is due to NYC's unique position of having a large amount of existing infrastructure that can enable the rapid delivery of case studies required as part of this bid. This funding is viewed as an opportunity to build on previous government funded programmes of work (5G testbed and trial Programme and the NY Digital Infrastructure Programme), enabling a broader application of advanced wireless connectivity across North Yorkshire, and addressing some of the key challenges captured within the NYC Council plan 2023-27.
- 4.2 If a bid is not submitted, then there is the risk that, due to the current financial challenges, that funding will not be available to drive forward work required to reap the benefits identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the bid will be for the maximum allowed under the 5GIR competition (£3.8m). As outlined in the competition guidance, there is no indication of a requirement for match funding
- 5.2 The ambition is that all effort required to implement the use cases under the 5GIR programme will be budgeted within the funding applied for, i.e. cost neutral to NYC and CoY
- 5.3 As lead authority, NYC will be responsible for receiving and administering the funding associated with this bid across all partner and supplier organisations.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any procurement required will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, and the Public Contracts Regulation 2015, if applicable. Procurement methods will be agreed in conjunction with both Procurement and Legal services.
- 6.2 DSIT seeks that 5G Innovation Regions will be funded through a "no subsidy" route to local authorities, i.e as an intra-governmental funding transfer, from DSIT to the local authority, under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022. This means that successful applicants will be responsible for their own compliance with the Act, and ensuring that the Act is complied with in any local authority spend or onward granting related to funded projects. This will be carefully managed through engagement with Legal services.
- 6.3 No grants terms and conditions have been received for this grant at this stage. Before the grant is accepted, the terms and conditions shall be reviewed by legal services.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Initial findings from the impact analysis identifies no clear negative potential impacts on those with protected characteristics.
- 7.2 There are several potentially positive impacts on those with protected characteristics through the implementation of use cases including the support of those with disabilities through supporting more effective digital social work practise, and on those on a low income through the environmental monitoring of social housing to identify properties at risk of damp and mould, enabling early intervention to improve living conditions.
- 7.3 Further impact analysis on each use case identified will be undertaken if the bid is successful.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Initial findings from the impact analysis identifies no clear negative potential impacts on the environment.
- 8.2 The analysis has identified several potential positive impacts on the environment, either directly through the implementation of a use case, or by rolling out the potential benefits identified from the use cases.
- 8.3 An example is the potential use of parking sensors in a busy town and using live digital signage to notify visitors about parking availability to direct them to spaces more effectively, potentially reducing idling time and unnecessary driving round an area to find a parking space.
- 8.3 Further impact analysis on each use case identified will be undertaken if the bid is successful.

9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The recommendation is based on the anticipated benefits that this funding will enable the NYC and City of York deliver, bringing potential investment, additional connectivity and economic growth for the benefit of North Yorkshire and York residents.
- 9.2 This also supports both organisation's joint ambition to create the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

21.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- i) To request approval from the Executive Member for Open for Business, following consultation with the Director of Transformation, the Chief Operating Officer of York and North Yorkshire LEP, and the Corporate Director Resources to authorise the submission of an application for grant funding of £3.8m.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Climate Change Impact Assessment Form
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

York and North Yorkshire 5G Innovation Region bid.

*Robert Ling
Director – Transformation
County Hall
Northallerton
31st August 2023*

Report Author – *Robert Ling, Director of Transformation*
Presenter of Report – *Robert Ling, Director of Transformation*

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

Appendix A – CCIA Form

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

Title of proposal	Approval for funding application - Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) 5G Innovation Region Bid
Brief description of proposal	<p>The proposal is to bid for funding from DSIT (up to £3.8m) to support the rollout of a variety of use cases that demonstrate a range of benefits of advanced wireless connectivity on themes such as economic growth and digital inclusion.</p> <p>This funding will enable North Yorkshire Council to facilitate the deployment of 5G and advanced wireless connectivity, whilst leading the adoption and innovation of public services, using advanced wireless connectivity. This compliments the transformation of public services planned and underway as part of the new Unitary authority, as well as delivery against key themes in the Council plan including digital inclusion and economic growth.</p> <p>The primary work will focus on delivering use cases to evidence the benefits of the use of this advanced wireless connectivity. These are across a range of areas and will each be subject to more detailed impacts assessments if the bid is successful.</p>
Directorate	Resources
Service area	Transformation
Lead officer	Jon Savage
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Cath Ritchie - Transformation Michael Grayson – Project Manager (Mobile Connectivity)
Date impact assessment started	6 th August 2023

Options appraisal

The alternative option to not bid for funding has been rejected. This is due to NYC's unique position of having a large amount of existing infrastructure that can enable the rapid delivery of case studies required as part of this bid. This funding is viewed as an opportunity to build on previous government funded programmes of work (5G testbed and trial Programme and the NY Digital Infrastructure Programme), enabling a broader application of advanced wireless connectivity across North Yorkshire, and addressing some of the key challenges captured within the NYC Council plan 2023-27.

If a bid is not submitted, then it is possible, due to the current financial challenges, that funding will not be available to drive forward work required to reap the benefits identified.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

The proposal seeks to secure up to £3.8m in government funding to facilitate the delivery of the 5G Innovation Region. This will fund all resources required to deliver a York and North Yorkshire 5G Innovation Region (if the bid is successful). The ambition is that this proposal will be cost neutral through delivery, with the potential to reduce costs to Council services in future through identification and trialling of use cases.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes over and above business as usual Evidence or measurement of effect Figures for CO₂e Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Several of the potential use cases identified may support the reduction in emissions from travel, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of parking sensors in busy towns and using live digital signage to notify visitors about parking availability to direct them to 		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
					<p>spaces more effectively as well as the potential to install digital signage to support public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of technology to support social workers to work more effectively, ensuring they have information required to facilitate remote working and more directed travel and interventions. 		
	Emissions from construction		X		There are no anticipated use cases identified that are specific to construction.		
	Emissions from running of buildings	X			<p>The bid is proposing use of environmental sensors in housing stock to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help identify the efficacy of energy reduction adaptations to social houses - Reduce the risk of damp and mould, by measuring environmental factors, reducing maintenance input. 		
	Emissions from data storage			X	A number of the use cases are about creating and utilising additional data from sensors out in an environment. It is important to note that the amount		

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					<p>of data being ingested is small in size (due to the nature of IoT sensors)</p>		
Other	X				<p>The NYC Climate Change strategy includes a drive to reduce the need for people to travel. The digital inclusion strand of the bid will help to provide training, advice and hardware to support individuals to access the internet and services via a digital route.</p> <p>We are also looking to support farms through use of agri-tech and use of data to help inform practise. This will facilitate more effective practise and a wider drive to support decarbonisation in farming.</p>		
Minimise waste : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic			X		<p>A large proportion of the sensors being utilised are battery powered and, despite having anticipated battery life of 5-10 years, will increase the amount of battery waste that will require disposal.</p>	<p>The disposal route for batteries will be explored to try to minimise the environmental impact</p>	
Reduce water consumption	X				<p>There is a potentially positive impact on water consumption as part of work with farmers as part of a potential agri-tech use case, using sensors to identify</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes over and above business as usual Evidence or measurement of effect Figures for CO₂e Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
				<p>soil moisture and put into place a more efficient schedule of irrigation for agriculture farming.</p>		
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>	X			<p>There is a potentially positive impact on air pollution through the use of sensors to monitor air quality within an area and use the data to help inform travel policy and transport planning.</p>		
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>	X			<p>One use case being developed as part of this funding application is the use of sensors across high flood risk areas to monitor surface flooding, river levels, rainfall levels etc... to actively monitor and be proactive in mitigating flood risk if the data being received indicates there is a high risk of flooding in an area.</p>		
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>		X		<p>No impacts have been identified.</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>No impacts have been identified.</p>		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

All use cases will be developed whilst taking into account the priorities outlined in the NYC Climate Change strategy, adopting good environmental practise where practical and feasible to do so.

Summary

In summary the initial analysis has identified a range of potential positive and negative impacts of the use cases associated with this funding application. If this bid is successful, then work will be undertaken to undertake more detailed assessments of each use case with a view to mitigating any negative impacts and maximising positive impacts.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Jon Savage
Job title	Project Manager
Service area	Transformation
Directorate	Resources
Signature	J. Savage
Completion date	31.08.23

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): *Robert Ling*

Date: 31.08.23

Appendix B – EIA Screening Form

<p>Initial equality impact assessment screening form This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.</p>			
Directorate	Resources		
Service area	Transformation		
Proposal being screened	Approval for funding application - Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) 5G Innovation Region Bid		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Jon Savage		
What are you proposing to do?	The proposal is to bid for funding from DSIT (up to £3.8m) to support the rollout of a variety of use cases that demonstrate a range of benefits of advanced wireless connectivity on themes such as economic growth and digital inclusion.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	This funding will enable North Yorkshire Council to facilitate the deployment of 5G and leading the adoption and innovation of public services, using advanced wireless connectivity. This compliments the transformation of public services planned and underway as part of the new Unitary authority.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	The proposal seeks to secure up to £3.8m in government funding to facilitate the delivery of the 5G Innovation Region. This will fund all resources required to deliver a York and North Yorkshire 5G Innovation Region (if the bid is successful).		
<p>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? • Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? • Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your Equality rep for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	

Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	<p>The proposal is to use the funding applied for to develop a range of use cases which will be across a range of geographical and services areas. For example digital inclusion work supporting those in rural areas to access connectivity, hardware and training; Or supporting those on low income through monitoring social housing environmental conditions.</p> <p>Most of the areas identified for use cases are in areas where work is already underway, with the funding being used to support delivery at scale or to provide additional investment to accelerate delivery.</p>		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	<p>An initial analysis of the use cases developed as part of this bid has identified no potential negative impacts, indeed there are several potential beneficial impacts that could be associated with the use cases.</p> <p>Further impact analyses will be undertaken for each use case if this funding application is successful.</p>		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	X	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	At this stage no adverse impacts have been identified and further impact analysis will be undertaken for each specific use case if the bid for funding is successful with full EIAs undertaken where required.		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Robert Ling		
Date	31.08.23		