

I thought that it would be helpful to update you on the latest position on Grange Park so we can share the same messages in our communications with others. This week we will be formally asking BT to model a costed solution for the whole of Grange Park. It was necessary to get the National Competency Centre clearance for the new Intervention Area before we did this. Now we have their clearance we can push ahead. The costed solution will identify the total costs. It will also identify what funding BT would contribute and therefore the remaining 'gap' where public funds are needed and the delivery timescale. This is the quickest route for us to be able to understand the scale of a costed solution from BT and a clear programme for implementation, subject to public sector funds being secured to fill the 'gap'. **Please be assured that we will be pressing for the modelling to be done as soon as possible but this is complex and will take weeks rather than several days.** As soon as we have a costed solution we need to have a discussion with SNC and Grange Park Parish Council to see how the gap can be met between us. When we have agreement on this, and with BT, the additional funding and coverage can be incorporated into the existing contract with BT through the change control process. What this also means is that Grange Park is not within scope for the second procurement which is currently live and being funded through a mixture of NCC, BDUK and district and borough contributions. This will focus on other parts of the county including South Northants beyond Grange Park where there is not currently a superfast solution.

The rationale for this approach is that BT have suggested that a solution for Grange Park will have to address unusual issues including TPON – it is our belief that the solution will therefore be likely to cost more to deploy here than other areas. If we left the area within scope of the current ITT, it is likely that the deployment plan tendered by BT may not include Grange Park because of its impact on vfm and coverage outcomes. Our approach means that we will have more clarity about how a solution for the area can be delivered and bringing it into scope of the current contract means we should be able to bring it forward before other areas which will be rolled out as part of the second phase of the project.

BT is aware that we intend to follow this approach and the urgency for a solution