

# PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION POST ENGAGEMENT FINAL DECISION



Report subject	<b>Ducting for Gigabit Speed Fibre – Urgent Futures Fund support</b>
Decision maker	<b>Councillor Philip Broadhead</b>
Proposed decision	<b>To invest £200k of Futures Fund monies to take the opportunity of installing up to 3.75km of ducting for gigabit fibre during the course of the Transforming Travel (TCF) programme works over the next 3-6 months.</b>
Proposed decision publication date	7 October 2021
Engagement period	Following the publication of the proposed decision, interested parties were invited to comment on the proposal for a period of five-clear days from 7 October 2021 to 14 October 2021 inclusive.

Comments received	<p>One representation was received in response to the proposal as follows: -</p> <p><b>Councillor Andy Hadley (BH15 3BB)</b></p> <p>I am surprised that this ducting has suddenly become an urgent issue, as the officer concerned was the one who proposed the TCF routes several years ago, without reference to those involved in Sustainable Travel, and the TCF team appear to have been resistant to changing the routes to fill the actual gaps in the strategic cycling network. I see no coherent plan as to how the Gigabit Fibre network will be run, whether these are indeed the optimal routes to link, and whether space in the ducting will also be rented to other fibre providers to provide income, so I think this proposal is half baked. It talks about savings based on potential use of the ducting. if it lies empty there is no savings at all, only unwarranted cost and interest repayments. My experience working with BT Openreach on pulling new fibres through ducting was always troublesome and required unblocking, which is a further cost risk in doing this now, rather than at the point when we have a network to connect. How does this work relate to the FibreCity and VirginMedia fibre networks in the area, and do we need the capability of our own dark fibre network if utilising 5G widely going forwards ? The nature of inspection chamber covers along the routes, and future maintenance are also a concern.</p>
Decision taken	<p><b>The Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economy and Strategic Planning has considered any representations received and determined to :</b></p> <p><b>[Confirm the decision outlined above without modification]</b></p> <p><b>[Confirm the decision outline above with modification (to be detailed)]</b></p> <p><b>[Reject the decision outlined above for the following reasons (insert reasons)]</b></p>
Date of final decision	<p><b>[To be Inserted as date of final confirmation from Portfolio Holder]</b></p>
Call-in and urgency:	<p>Subject to any urgency provisions which shall be identified, this decision will not come into force, and may not be implemented, until the expiry of 5 clear working days after the decision was made, recorded and published.</p>