

Motion for Bute Community Council	
Date	November 2022
Title	Improvement of Island Internet 2022
Description	<p>The council notes the national plan to phase out the copper/plain switched telephone network (PSTN) in this decade (Openreach).</p> <p>The council notes that the island is served by telecoms fibre via the BT Highlands and Islands Submarine Cable System, and that the previous major internet technology upgrade to Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) on the island did not cover the whole island (ISPReview, 2015).</p> <p>The council notes the continuing increase of the importance of digital connection in society, as evidenced by recent government legislation on the minimums of an internet connection and how available it should be to access (Ofcom, 2022).</p> <p>The council notes there are various funding pools that may be available to islanders, to improve their internet connection, including the Scottish Government R100 project and the UK Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (Digital Scotland).</p> <p>The council, taking in the above, determines that a full Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) rollout for all properties on Bute is the best way to advance and future proof the island's access to fast and stable internet.</p> <p>The council will want to avoid if possible parts of the island getting left behind again should the upcoming FTTP rollout not reach them, get ahead of the upcoming PSTN shutdown, and address the failure of FTTC to reach all parts of the island at this time, and large parts that are reached not delivered good speed.</p> <p>The council notes it would be of benefit to engage with Argyll & Bute Council and BT over the upcoming FTTP rollout on the island to determine the exact scope of the rollout, and if areas are currently not included, if there are ways to include them while BT's engineers are on island.</p> <p>The council notes that Bute BID has also expressed an interest in the rollout of improved internet on the island.</p>
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To send a joint letter with the Bute BID to the A&BC and BT contacts for the new rollout of fibre technology on the island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expressing our groups interest in the planning of the internet rollout ○ Asking for details on the current rollout plans ○ Asking to be a part of any input for decisions on scope of rollout on the island, should there still be decisions to be made • To determine on response to the above, if and how it would be needed to proceed to meet the aim of a full FTTP rollout on Bute.
References	<p>Digital Scotland. Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme. <i>scotlandsuperfast.com</i>. [Online] [Cited: 03 November 2022.] https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/the-r100-programme/scottish-broadband-voucher-scheme/.</p> <p>ISPReview. 2015. BT's "Fibre Broadband" Finally Arrives in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. <i>ISPReview.co.uk</i>. [Online] 23 July 2015. [Cited: 03 November 2022.]</p>

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