

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ITEM 8

AMESBURY AREA BOARD
27 January 2011

STONEHENGE BROADBAND GROUP - PRESENTATION

Background

- (a) Since reporting in brief to the Amesbury Area Board in October 2010, the Stonehenge Broadband Group has been participating in the BT Race to Infinity initiative, studying the government's latest position on broadband, liaising at a high level with BT, and carrying out discussions with a potential commercial partner.

Update to be given at the meeting

- (b) Outcome of Race to Infinity for this community area
- (c) Government's latest position on broadband.

Recommendations to be further explained at the meeting

- (d) The Stonehenge Broadband Group proposes to form its own Community Interest Company to work in partnership with whichever telecommunications' company is prepared to offer the most effective solution
- (e) Advice and support is needed from Wiltshire Council on how to secure funding for Winterbourne Stoke and other villages in the Shrewton exchange area to take forward work required to bring improved broadband to this area
- (f) Support is needed from Wiltshire Council to ensure the full range of recommendations in the Government's report "Britain's Superfast Broadband Future" are implemented to the benefit of this community area
- (g) Further support is needed from the area board and Wiltshire Council to facilitate a reduction in business rates for broadband companies prepared to extend networks into rural areas, and to encourage the MOD to allow (where security permits) access to 'dark fibre' in Wiltshire.