

Annex C: Summary of questions

Introduction

Q1 Views are sought on:

- a) Is this an appropriate role for Government?
- b) What other high level principles the Government might adopt?
- c) What resources do you consider the Government should aim to deploy to effectively manage its role?

Section 1

Q2 What potential opportunities are there for Government to leverage its combined buying power to support policy objectives?

Q3 If migration to IPV6 is required, are there any barriers to that migration and if so how might these be addressed?

Section 2 - What might future demand look like?

Q4 Is an ongoing disparity of provision of broadband services inevitable? If so should this be addressed and how might this be done most effectively?

Q5 How symmetrical will digital communications networks have to be in the future? Will this differ across user types? What implications does this have for fixed and wireless broadband provision?

Q6 Which countries should be our benchmarks on communications infrastructure to ensure that businesses remain in the UK and continue to invest?

Q7 What metrics do you think should or will become relevant in comparing network performance in different countries? What metrics should most appropriately be used as the basis to set objectives for government policy?

Section 3 - Scenarios

Scenario 1

Q8 Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it? Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Q9 What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far will it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

Q10 Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

Q11 Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price or availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios and in what way?

Q12 How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario and what area might it occur?

Scenario 2

Q13 Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it? Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Q14 What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far will it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

Q15 Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

Q16 Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price or availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios and in what way?

Q17 How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario and what area might it occur?

Scenario 3

Q18 Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it? Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

Q19 What are your views on the technology commentary underpinning this scenario? To what extent might the infrastructure/technology discussed evolve irrespective of demand and how far will it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

Q20 Are there technologies not identified here that you think will have a major impact on the performance of existing infrastructure or the deployment of additional infrastructure in the next 10-15 years?

Q21 Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price or availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios and in what way?

Q22 How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario and what area might it occur?

General

Q23 Are there factors, for example technical or unrelated to the regulatory framework, that could create bottlenecks and delay future infrastructure deployment in the UK in this timeframe, that would result in demand not being met or the UK not being seen as a leading digital nation?

Q24 Do you expect commercial providers to deliver future infrastructure and meet demand on a purely commercial basis, or is some form of public intervention likely? If public intervention is likely how might that work with the commercial provision of infrastructure? What form might that intervention take?

Q25 Which current or draft legislation might prevent or facilitate the emergence of any of the scenarios?

Q26 Do you have views on which scenario (or combination of scenarios) is most likely and should influence the development of future strategy?

Section 4 Competition and regulation

Q27 How might efficient investment in communications infrastructure be supported, for example by changes in the regulatory framework?

Q28 Are there any further measures necessary to incentivise the rollout of future mobile infrastructure in currently underserved areas?

Q29 Is there a role for a revised USO or USC to ensure that minimum consumer demand requirements are met and to reduce the potential for a new digital divide? What might this look like?

Q30 In terms of supporting future innovation and long-term investment in infrastructure, what areas of broadcasting regulation may have served its purpose by 2025 -2030 (or indeed earlier). What future technical developments may also have longer term implications for regulation and wider public policy?

Q31 Are there changes to the EU Framework that the UK might seek to encourage more competition in UK markets?

Q32 Should Government seek changes to the European Framework which put more reliance on competition law and how might this be done?

Q33 In what ways can you see competition driving technological change in the UK in the future?

Q34 How can the regulatory framework keep up to date with new business models and changes in technology?

Q35 Are there any changes to legislation other than the Communications Act that would incentivise the provision of communications infrastructure?

Q36 Would there be benefits to investment from a focus on broadband only services? Are there any barriers to the emergence and adoption of broadband only services, whilst still providing necessary access to emergency services?

Section 5 – Facilitating and Encouraging Investment

Q37 How might copper access networks evolve over time alongside other access technologies? Is there a role for policymakers in helping manage any transition from copper to other access networks?

Q38 Views are sought on whether there are any additional actions the Government should consider to ensure:

- a) That the provision of all areas of the UK's digital communications infrastructure remains competitive in order to ensure that the UK can take full advantage of growth opportunities in the Digital Age;
- b) Aside from legislation and adapting the regulatory framework in the broad sense which other actions should the Government take to encourage investment in communications infrastructure?
- c) That potential investment in the provision of digital communications infrastructure offers a suitable risk and reward profile to ensure that they can be financed by the private sector

Q39 Views are sought on:

- a) The case for the UK to invest to gain 'early mover advantage';
- b) What areas in particular the UK should aim to see investment;
- c) Are there any actions not covered elsewhere in this report that the government should consider to ensure digital communications infrastructure is in place before it is needed and such that it helps generate need.

Q40 How can we maximise the current R&D and innovation UK landscape to help take advantage of the opportunities provided by future technologies? What needs to be done by Government and its agencies, and industry to tackle any gaps?

Q41 In which future communications technologies do you consider the UK has, or could achieve, an international leadership position?

Q42 What more might government and industry do to exploit future technologies, associated new applications and emerging business models?

Q43 What role might local bodies have in facilitating the future delivery of digital communications infrastructure?

Q44 How can council's maximise the digital communications infrastructure in their local area to support their work on economic regeneration?