



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Our ref: RFI 6329/6380

Date: 2 April 2014

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Applications under the Rural Community
Broadband Fund (RCBF)**

Thank you for your two requests for information about applications made into the Rural Community Broadband Fund. We have handled your requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

The information you requested is provided below.

**1. List of bodies/organisations which were successful in their applications for
RCBF funding**

To date, five projects have been approved under the Fund as detailed in Schedule 1 attached.

2. List of bodies/organisations which made unsuccessful applications

The RCBF has a two-stage process. Expressions of Interest (first stage applications) that were eligible under the Fund were invited to bring forward a Full Application (second stage applications). In total, 118 Expressions of Interest were submitted through 3 open calls for bids. Of these, 46 were unsuccessful as detailed in the Schedule 2 attached.



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

5 projects applied twice to the fund. These were:

- Broadband for Rural Sevenoaks
- Hartfield area Community Broadband Project
- North Luffenham Village Trust Community Broadband
- Northlew
- Rural Internet Solutions Enterprise

Where they appear once in Schedule 2 it is because they would have been 'deferred' for further work on their first application and unsuccessful following resubmission.

A number of applicants invited to submit Full applications have decided to combine their application with neighbouring projects. A total of 30 individual Full Applications were submitted by the end of February 2014. The final number of full applications under the Fund has now reduced to 23 (for example as they were not in a 10% area which was a key condition of the RCBF). No full applications have been rejected.

3. List projects which are still live, having not been either accepted or refused; when they might be accepted or refused; and numbers of live initial applications not yet defined as going to full application.

The following are 'live' projects under the Fund subject to final consideration and contract:

- Tove Valley (pre contract approval)
- Fibre GarDen (pre contract approval)
- Northmoor (pre contract approval)
- i-Northumberland

Defra is working with these applicants to finalise the processes. It is not possible to be exact on timing but final decisions are expected to be made shortly. There are no outstanding initial applications not yet defined as going to Full Application stage.

17 Local Authority led projects are expected to be incorporated into current contracts to increase coverage to harder to reach communities where it was not possible to provide approval utilising RCBF due to the 50% grant limit under the Fund.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do contact us.

Yours

Defra Rural FOI Team

Email: rural.communities@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF