# Initial Report

Last Modified: 10/02/2014

## 1. Are you content for the Government to publish your response?

| # | Answer | Bar | Response | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Yes, I would like the Government to publish my response. | | 1 | 100% |
| 2 | No, I do not want the Government to publish my response. | | 0 | 0% |
| | Total | | 1 | |

## 2. Please explain why you regard the information you have provided in response to this consultation as confidential.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 3. Name

| Text Response |
|---|
| Steve Wood |

## 4. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

| # | Answer | Bar | Response | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Yes | | 1 | 100% |
| 2 | No | | 0 | 0% |
| | Total | | 1 | |

## 5. Organisation name

| Text Response |
|---|
| Liverpool City Council |

## 6. Contact email address

| Text Response |
|---|
| stephen.wood@liverpool.gov.uk |

## 7. Contact address

| Text Response |
|---|
| Municipal Buildings Dale Street Liverpool L2 2DH |

## 8. Please select which category best describes you or your organisation

| # | Answer | Bar | Response | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Academia/research | | 0 | 0% |
| 2 | Broadcasting | | 0 | 0% |
| 3 | Consumer/user | | 0 | 0% |
| 4 | Consumer group | | 0 | 0% |
| 5 | Fixed communications provider | | 0 | 0% |
| 6 | Industry organisation | | 0 | 0% |
| 7 | Infrastructure provider | | 0 | 0% |
| 8 | Internet Service Provider | | 0 | 0% |
| 9 | Local Government or other public sector | | 1 | 100% |
| 10 | Mobile communications provider | | 0 | 0% |
| 11 | Satellite communications provider | | 0 | 0% |
| 12 | Technology company | | 0 | 0% |
| 13 | Other | | 0 | 0% |
| 14 | Business user or business group | | 0 | 0% |
| | Total | | 1 | |

## 9. If other, please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 10. Is this an appropriate role for Government?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 11. Are there other high level principles the Government might adopt?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 12. If yes, please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 13. What resources do you consider the Government should aim to deploy to

effectively manage its role?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**15.** If migration to IPV6 is required, are there any barriers to that migration?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**16.** How might these barriers be addressed?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**17.** Is an ongoing disparity of provision of broadband services across the country inevitable?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**18.** If so, should this be addressed?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**19.** How might this be done most effectively?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**20.** 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**21.** Which countries should be our benchmarks on communications infrastructure to ensure that business remains in the UK and continues to invest?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**22.** What metrics do you think should or will become relevant in comparing network performance in different countries?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 23. What metrics should most appropriately be used as the basis to set objectives for Government policy?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 24. Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 25. Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 26. 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 it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 27. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 28. If yes, please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 29. Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 30. In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 31. How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

32. In what area might it occur?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

33. Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

34. Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

35. 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 it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

36. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

37. If yes, please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

38. Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

39. In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

40. How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**41.** In what area might it occur?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**42.** Do you agree with this scenario or elements within it?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**43.** Where do you agree/disagree? If you disagree what alternative scenario do you envisage?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**44.** 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 it be a direct consequence of the level of demand?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**45.** 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**46.** If yes, please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**47.** Are there wider environmental issues not reflected in the scenario e.g. the price of availability of energy that will affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**48.** In what way might these wider environmental issues affect any of the scenarios?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**49.** How likely is any unforeseen disruption to this scenario?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 50. In what area might it occur?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 51. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 52. Please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 53. 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?

| # | Answer | Bar | Response | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Commercial providers will meet demand on a purely commercial basis. | | 0 | 0% |
| 2 | Some form of public intervention is likely. | | 1 | 100% |
| | Total | | 1 | |

## 54. If public intervention is likely how might that work with the commercial provision of infrastructure? What form might that intervention take?

| Text Response |
|---|
| Public intervention will almost certainly be required in some form. There are always likely to be areas where commercial providers do not feel it is commercially viable to provide services or where commercial providers are not willing to provide services to a level required by both public and commercial demand. It is important that a way is found for public intervention to occur in these areas. It is currently unacceptable that many of the country's city centres are being left behind in terms of physical communications infrastructure due to the lack of willing (for commercial / profit reasons) on the behalf of commercial providers to provide future proof infrastructure in these locations. Digital communications need to be seen on a par with other utilities such as water, gas and electricity. Public intervention should only be allowed where it is clear that commercial providers are not going to deliver the required telecommunications infrastructure and services as identified by customer demand and local government priorities. Gap funding schemes such as the one currently being rolled out across the UK by BDUK should continue to be used to fill infrastructure gaps but much more competition needs to be introduced into the process so that bespoke and more locally appropriate solutions can be developed. This type of government funding should be used to provide physical future proof infrastructure in all areas (ie. including city centres) and not just used for "sticking plaster" solutions such as installation vouchers. |

## 55. Which current or draft legislation might prevent or facilitate the emergence of any of the scenarios?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**57.** Please give your reasoning for why you think this scenario or combination of scenarios is most likely.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**59.** Are any further measures necessary to incentivise the rollout of future mobile infrastructure in currently underserved areas?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**60.** Please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**61.** 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

**62.** What might this look like?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

**63.** 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 65. Please give details.

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 66. Should Government seek changes to the European Framework which put more reliance on competition law?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 67. How might this be done?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 68. In what ways can you see competition driving technological change in the UK in the future?

| Text Response |
|---|
| Competition is important to drive technological change and it needs to be significantly increased in the UK communications market. While it is clear that providing infrastructure on a national scale lends itself to large scale commercial providers, more needs to be done to encourage and enable smaller sub-regional providers to actively participate in the market. Many of these providers are able to respond more flexibly to the specific demands of local areas and can provide more innovative and bespoke solutions to an area's needs. |

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

## 71. What might these changes be?

*This question was not displayed to the respondent.*

## 72. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

73. Please give details.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

74. Are there any barriers to the emergence and adoption of broadband only services, whilst still providing necessary access to emergency services?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

75. Please give details.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

76. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

77. Views are sought on whether there are any additional actions the Government should consider to ensure 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.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

78. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

79. Views are sought on whether there are any additional actions the Government should consider to ensure 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.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

80. Views are sought on the case for the UK to invest to gain 'early mover advantage'.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

81. Views are sought on what areas in particular the UK should aim to see investment in.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

82. 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

83. How might 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?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

84. In which future communications technologies that you consider the UK has, or could achieve, an international leadership position?

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*

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

**Text Response**

The role of local bodies should be to continue to identify the digital infrastructure needs of their areas and provide a leadership role in terms of ensuring these needs are met either by encouraging investment by commercial providers, providing funding (as well as leveraging central government funding) and leading on key projects. Local bodies should also be encouraged to use their assets (eg. Buildings, land, street furniture etc) to aid the delivery of digital communications infrastructure in their area. This could be by placing a requirement on Local Bodies to consider commercial requests to use their assets for this purpose.

87. How can councils maximise the digital communications infrastructure in their local area to support their work on economic regeneration?

**Text Response**

Future proof digital infrastructure is vital if local economies are to flourish and compete both across the UK and globally. Cities like Liverpool are competing for investment on a global scale and unless the required digital infrastructure can be secured and put in place they will fall behind. Councils must encourage and enable commercial providers to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors in their areas by leveraging private investment. However, they must also consider, and be allowed to provide, funding (or part / match funding) improvements to digital infrastructure in key areas if this is vital to the future economic success of the area. There can be huge benefits for local economies (ie. in terms of jobs, GVA etc.) arising from investment in future-proof physical digital infrastructure in terms of providing businesses and residents with access to the internet and all that brings in terms of reducing the digital divide and providing access to job markets and Council services. Indeed Councils can potentially make significant savings from providing more services online but this will only be possible if the necessary digital infrastructure is in place. Investment is also required in training businesses/residents to maximise the use of ICT infrastructure. Council's will only make significant savings in service delivery if the take up of digital channels nears 100%. Businesses, SMEs in particular, could contribute more to the local and national economy if they were equipped and trained to use ICT.

88. Please provide details of information you feel is relevant to the development of the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy and not already covered by the consultation questions.

*This question was not answered by the respondent.*