

<b>Name of scheme:</b>	<b>GBF – Wakefield Business Gigabit Voucher Scheme</b>
<b>PMO scheme code:</b>	GBF-WYCA-014
<b>Lead organisation:</b>	Wakefield District Council
<b>Senior responsible officer:</b>	Darren Gill, Wakefield Council
<b>Lead promoter contact:</b>	Rob Tranmer, Combined Authority
<b>Case officer:</b>	Paul Coy, Combined Authority

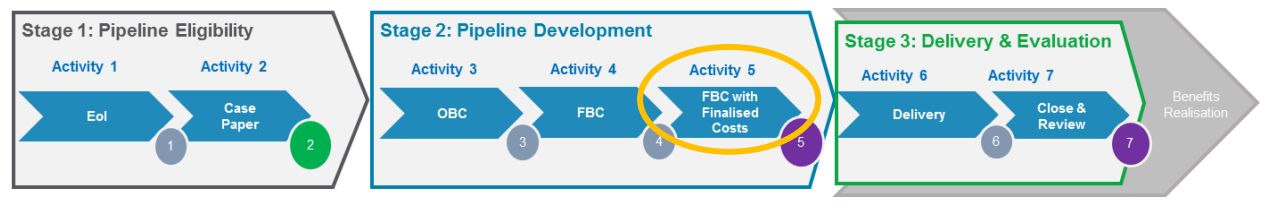
<b>Applicable funding stream(s) – Grant or Loan:</b>	Getting Building Fund
<b>Growth Fund Priority Area (if applicable):</b>	Priority 4- Infrastructure for Growth

<b>Approvals to date:</b>	Wakefield Council Cabinet Approval. Getting Building Fund Programme strategic outline case (decision point 2) approval Combined Authority September 2020.
<b>Forecasted full approval date (decision point 5):</b>	December 2020
<b>Forecasted completion date (decision point 6):</b>	March 2022

<b>Total scheme cost (£):</b>	£0.300 million
<b>Combined Authority funding (£):</b>	£0.300 million
<b>Total other public sector investment (£):</b>	N/A
<b>Total other private sector investment (£):</b>	N/A

<b>Is this a standalone project?</b>	Yes
<b>Is this a programme?</b>	No
<b>Is this project part of an agreed programme?</b>	Yes - Getting Building Fund programme

## Current Assurance Process Activity:



## Scheme Description:

The Wakefield Business Gigabit Voucher Scheme offers financial assistance to bring high-speed broadband to the hardest to reach premises in the Wakefield area. These will be provided directly to SME (small and medium sized enterprises) businesses or residents in the form of vouchers to contribute to the installation of high-speed broadband. This is a continuation of the Government's National Gigabit Voucher programme which closed early due to full allocation. The government has clear targets for the availability of full fibre and 5G networks to see 15 million premises connected to full fibre by 2025, by using and completing this gigabit voucher scheme it will help enable the government to reach this target.

The scheme has £300,000 to be distributed to eligible residents/businesses. The project will issue vouchers up to a maximum of £7,000 per business and £2,500 per residence. The Voucher Scheme will reduce the financial barrier for businesses and residents in Wakefield by gap funding commercial models that would not otherwise result in the delivery of high-speed internet services.

A review is planned to take place post allocation of the vouchers to ensure that the money has been spent as agreed.

## Business Case Summary:

### Strategic Case

Strategic drivers for this investment:

- Improved social inclusion and widening of broadband access
- Part of Covid-19 economic recovery enabling work from home and supporting businesses to trade on-line
- Improved resident health
- Improved operating conditions for businesses
- Encouragement of business start up

This scheme will contribute to the Leeds City Region Priority 4 (Infrastructure for Growth) action area D (Digital infrastructure).

### Commercial Case

The Government has set targets for the availability of full fibre and 5G networks to see 15 million premises connected to full fibre by 2025, with coverage across all parts of the country by 2033. This scheme will help to meet those targets.

The national Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme has the strategic objective of increasing gigabit-capable coverage across the UK. Starting in March 2018, the programme launched the first wave of its programme, designed to encourage broadband service providers to build full-fibre networks in the UK for small to medium-sized businesses and nearby

	<p>residents when part of a group scheme. The £67 million fund was successfully used over two years and has now closed for new applications. Take up figures shows connected 23,068 connections, with a further 5,487 to complete under the Gigabit Scheme as of 10/09/2020.</p> <p>In May 2019, the programme launched its second wave of funding to support the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to homes and businesses in rural areas of the UK when part of a group scheme. In Wakefield this scheme has closed leading to demand for this scheme.</p>
<b>Economic Case</b>	<p>The underlying rationale for this scheme is founded in market failure. Communities are being left behind as commercial models mean certain areas and residents are not viable to provide high speed broadband. The market is not able to address demand in areas where return is lower than cost. In the short term the only viable solution is for the public sector to fund the extra costs of enabling broadband internet for these areas. Currently the Getting Building Fund is the only capital funding available for this type of scheme.</p>
<b>Financial Case</b>	<p>This project intends to spend £300,000 in capital costs distributing vouchers to residents and businesses. This funding has been allocated indicatively by the Getting Building Fund. This project has no potential to generate a commercial return.</p>
<b>Management Case</b>	<p>Wakefield Council will be responsible for delivering the scheme, the spend to be completed by March 2022 and the outputs to be archived by December 2024. Highlight reports will be presented by Wakefield District Council in terms as to how the scheme is progressing throughout the lifetime of the scheme. A further evaluation is planned to take place post allocation of the vouchers to both undertake post funding assurance and a general review of the project. As part of the monitoring and evaluation, consideration will be given to background effects that are not related to the scheme.</p>