

North Skye Broadband Steering Group Meeting No 12

10th March 2016 SLCVO Portree– 18.00

Minutes

Attendees

Roy Bennett, (Chair) (RB), Geoff Semler (GMS), Elgar Finlay (EF), Mo Scobbie (MS), Nick Duffill, (ND) Nial Till (NT), Charles McCrimmon (Deputy Chair) (CMC), Brian Mennie (BM) James Caldwell (JC)

By teleconference Nigel Redfern (NR)

Bodies CBS (Community Broadband Scotland) HIE (Highland and Islands Enterprise)

No apologies were received

RB opened the meeting and the meeting followed the published Agenda.

Previous Minutes for 11.02.2016 were accepted. RB continued to take this meetings minutes, it was noted a minutes secretary was still required.

Adoption of minutes proposed by RB Seconded NT

Action Point RB - Minutes from last meeting completed

Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest

1 Progress Report

HIE /CBS report –There was no formal report from HIE or CBS – instead an update was given by GMS with regard to the situation with the PQQ and ITPD. No significant progress had been made although a redraft of the PQQ was issued by CBS. It was still a long way from reflecting the Very High level Requirements. GMS and EF provided comments and returned it to CBS as it was not in a fit for circulation to the SG. The lack of progress has been escalated by GMS to Douglas Cowan (Director, Consumer Services, and the point at which both HIE and CBS meet in the structure) and a response is expected by Thursday 17th March 2016.

The lack of progress will clearly have an impact on the remainder of the program and in particular on how to handle the imminent Community Engagement. In an exchange of correspondence between RB and GMS it was suggested that if progress cannot be made there were really only four options to be considered:

1. Wait until CBS were ready to reengage and there was no estimate as to when this would be, this impacted directly on the Public Engagement policy
2. Go ahead and pay someone else to design the PQQ using the HIE funding to support this along with the necessary legal and financial work with a view to returning to CBS for funding later in the process.
3. Disengage from the public sector completely and proceed down the private funding route
4. Return HIE funding, cancel the public engagement and wind up the whole project

A lengthy debate ensued regarding whether or not to delay or cancel the community engagement process which was due to start on 21st March 2016, It was pointed out by BM that delay would effectively be cancellation, for this would destroy any credibility North Skye Broadband had built and would be very difficult to reengage and sustain the level of enthusiasm that had been built over the previous year. The SG decided that option 2 was probably the only realistic option in the short term in the event that progress could not be made with CBS.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be arranged for a weeks' time to review the results of the escalation and decide how to best proceed with the planned Community Engagement and the project.

Comms Public Engagement Presentation

EF demonstrated the Comms Group presentation that would be shown in the public events. A number of comments were made that were taken on board to improve the presentational delivery. In addition the Key Dates slide will need revision in the light of the outcome of next week's SG Meeting.

2 Company Structures – Combensoc or other entity

The group discussed the proposal on the table that RC, GMS, and RB would form the ComBenSoc. A vote was taken and the proposal was accepted with 1 objection being noted.

As part of the above discussion a request was made for the SG Chair to provide routine updates from the Weekly Management and Planning Meeting held between the PM, SG Chair and Company Chair, this was agreed.

Combensoc rules would be circulated to the SG for agreement prior to submission to the FSA VIA Plunkett Foundation.

Action: GMS

3 Yammer

ND raised the issue of workload planning and communication and it was agreed that the group adopt Yammer as a networking utility for activity outside the group ND was asked to circulate detail to all SG members.

4 AOB

There was no other business the Chair thanked the members for attending and the meeting was closed at 20.40

Next Meeting was agree for 17.03.2015 – Glendale Community Hall