



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 27 NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: INTERNET OF THINGS- SCOTLAND NETWORK

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Council of a proposal to develop a Longer Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN) in Moray.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II (20) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to any new matter which does not fall within the terms of reference of any Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Council delegates authority to the Head of Economic Growth and Development Services to progress a site sharing agreement to form part of the national Internet of Things network in Moray.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In August 2018 the Scottish Government invested £2.8 million to create a national Internet of things in partnership with Boston Networks.
- 3.2 The proposal seeks to establish a national network using LoRaWAN technology placed on Local Authority buildings.
- 3.3 Boston Networks propose to utilise approx. 30 buildings in Moray to provide reasonable coverage in the Moray area.
- 3.4 LoRaWAN technology is used to send small packets of data and can be utilised for a variety of sensor technology such as weather monitoring, building monitoring, footfall counters, Legionella checks, traffic flows and signals, social care and health data.
- 3.5 The use of such technology can improve performance and reduce costs by automating systems.

- 3.6 Boston Network would install small aerials on the chosen buildings to form the network, a site sharing agreement would be entered into setting out the payment for the use of the buildings balanced with discounts associated with use of the network.
- 3.7 The network would be open for any business or individual to use through agreement with Boston Networks, costs for use varies with the number of sensors an individual requires and the data transferred. In many cases the costs will be less than existing systems or using existing 3g and 4g solutions.
- 3.8 A plan showing the anticipated coverage is given in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.9 Future Council uses of the network will be considered on their own merit with appropriate business cases established.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The provision of suitable networks favours opportunities and for the public and private sector to utilise new technology contributing to economic growth.

(b) Policy and Legal

A site sharing agreement will be established to negate risk and liability for the Council and provide favourable rates for network use.

(c) Financial implications

The energy use for low power networks is very small and is likely to be around £300 per year for 30 aerials, this cost will be covered through the site sharing agreement.

Opportunities arising from using sensor information across the network could provide savings in staff time and operational costs.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no risks associated with this programme.

(e) Staffing Implications

None.

(f) Property

Arrangements for access to buildings to install aerials will be put in place.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

The availability of the network will assist in economic development and growth across the region.

(h) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment & Finance), the Head of Economic Growth and Development, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Head of Financial Services and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The proposal offers the opportunity to develop a LoRaWAN network in Moray making it available for public and private sector.

Author of Report: Jim Grant, Head of Economic Growth and Development
Background Papers:
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