Minutes from the Airedale Partnership Board meeting held on the 18th July 2016

Present:
Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw, Chair
Ros Beattie, Company Solutions
Wendy Spencer, Airedale Enterprise Services
Nav Chohan, Shipley College

In attendance:
Dave Melling, Airedale Partnership
Paul North, Airedale Partnership
Rupert Swarbrick, Boundless Networks Community engagement team
Simon Hayhurst, Boundless Networks Community engagement director

1.0 Welcome/Introductions:
1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

2.0 Apologies:
2.1 Apologies were received from Steve Seymour, William Jowitt, David Moss, Mick Milner and Cllr Simon Cooke.

3.0 Declarations of interest:
3.1 These would be given as and when they arise.

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd May 2016 were approved and would be placed on the Partnership website
www.airedalepartnership.org

5.0 Matter arising:
5.1 The Chair reported that he had visited a number of key sites from the masterplan as part of a whistle-stop tour of Airedale earlier this month.

6.0 Boundless Networks
6.1 Rupert Swarbrick and Simon Hayhurst described the business offer using wireless point to point technology to deliver broadband solutions where other providers will/can not. In some instances this is at better levels of performance with a quicker response/build/installation time. Their networks are resilient – designed in such a way that an obstruction cannot take down the service.

The business model relies on expression of need from a community leading to hard commitment to sign up if the company invests in the build.
They also invest time in exploring a lead along with other partners.
The network currently serves 3,500 – 4000 clients.

Dave Melling commented on dead spots for broadband – The Council can supply information on business location from the business rate lists which can be set alongside known absences in the network.

In some instances there is no existing built network. A need can also arise if residents live some distance from the nearest green cabinet or the cabinet has been wired providing a lower performance. Both instances lead to potential customers for Boundless. New Housing developments built after the cable infrastructure are another target market. Target areas include around Silsden, Steeton, Stanbury, Worth Valley. Work is also underway on Royd Ings, Keighley which was never cabled.

Action - A contact at Keighley College was agreed as the building provides good line of sight owing to its height. (Contact detail offered).

Also some customers no longer want a cable package that ties them into telephone landline rental. Boundless provide this option. Also the offer includes unlimited data. Different packages are available as different customers/consumers have different needs. Software to test the actual speed of broadband installations includes speedtest.net and uswitch.net
Further information can be found at www.superfastwestyorkshire.co.uk

It was noted that Virgin were also invited to the meeting but could not attend and could not provide anyone else to describe their current offer.

7.0 Broadband update – Dave Melling
7.1 Dave provided a further broadband update – Superfast Broadband phase 2 has started. BT is involved in planning this. The work will show where upgrades are needed. Work will be expected later this year. Presently a lot of work is focussed on Kirklees as they did not join in earlier project and are attempting to catch up.

Currently the belief is that between 97 and 98% will have access to BT open reach boxes.
Phase 2a will concentrate in completion of the remaining 2% however this work depended on European funds, following the BRexit vote the funding is suspended whilst the future of the programme is considered. The provision of a network in Stanbury is included phase 2a

Wilsden won a competition run by Virgin to be connected to broadband. Incidental winners will also include Harden and Cullingworth.
It should be noted that not everywhere is included in the % figures above BT charges for connection to lucrative hotspots for business connection like Bradford City centre. New suppliers do however have the potential of driving down the cost through competition.
Some broadband in the City centre is only for closed use e.g. Xernet system which builds on prior closed systems. The Council signed up with Virgin for a public sector network.

Wi-fi is now available in CBMDC museums and galleries.

8.0 Workplan update
8.1 Over and above the written update Paul North reported that the Council's Regulatory and Appeals Committee had approved the demolition of the former North Street building of the former Keighley College.

This would make way for the public sector hub that would be built on the site. Demolition would be expected to begin in the autumn.

Keighleybid has its biggest event so far 'Keighley by the sea' from Sat 30th July for the month of August

9.0 Board member updates.
9.1 Brief verbal updates were given.

9.2 A question of Andy Taylor's imminent retirement was raised and what implications are there for the Airedale Partnership?
A) Andy's post will be filled through external recruitment probably following a restructure within regeneration. The Airedale Partnership is free to meet and pursue its agenda as before. Board member's comments had been included in a goodbye card for Andy who has been a key part of the delivery of the Masterplan.

10.0 AOB
10.1 It was noted that Trevor Higgins of BT and former Board member is retiring.

11.0 The next Airedale Partnership Board meeting will be on 5th September 3pm at 68b North Street, Keighley