HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Digital Scotland
Community Broadband

11/04/2017

Highlands & Islands Enterprise Community Broadband Scotland

FIFE STATE AID PUBLIC CONSULTATION – CLOSURE NOTE

1. Outcome of the Public Consultation

A revised State Aid Public Consultation for the Fife area was published on Thursday 23th February 2017 following updated deployment information from the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) team. This Public Consultation closed on 24th March 2017 with only one response received from the DSSB team with new information.

Following this process, the intervention area for the project was finalised prior to commencing procurement. The final State Aid map for NGA Broadband is shown below and is available on the Highlands & Islands Enterprise Community Broadband Scotland website at:

http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland/resource-library.html

2. Timescales

The following table summarises the indicative timescales of the planned procurement:

Activity	Date
Consultation period for the State Aid Public Consultation	**23rd February - 24th March 2017**
Submit State Aid notification (Part 1) to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport	**April/May 2016**
Issue Invitation to Tender	**ESPD/ITT – April/May/June 2017**
Submit State Aid notification (Part 2) to the Department for Media Culture and Sport	**Autumn/Winter 2017**
Sign contract	**Winter 2017**

3. Revised State Aid Maps

The following criteria have been used by Highlands & Islands Enterprise to determine the classification of areas into NGA (Next Generation Access) White/Grey/Black[1] areas: For NGA:

- A postcode is turned grey if there is only one broadband infrastructure operator providing NGA services (supporting minimum speeds of at least 30Mbps) to that postcode.

- A postcode is turned black if there are at least two broadband infrastructure operators providing NGA services (supporting minimum speeds of at least 30Mbps) to that postcode.

- All other postcodes remain white.

For Basic Broadband no data was received from the market to update the Basic Broadband State Aid mapping.

The following table summarises the outcome of the Public Consultation in terms of White, Grey and Black postcodes and premises for NGA:

	Number of postcodes	Number of black premises	Number of grey premises	Number of white premises
Black postcodes	-	-	-	-
Grey postcodes	33	-	199	-
White postcodes	128	-	-	**1,248**

The proposed Intervention Area includes **1,248** NGA White premises spread over **128** NGA White postcodes.
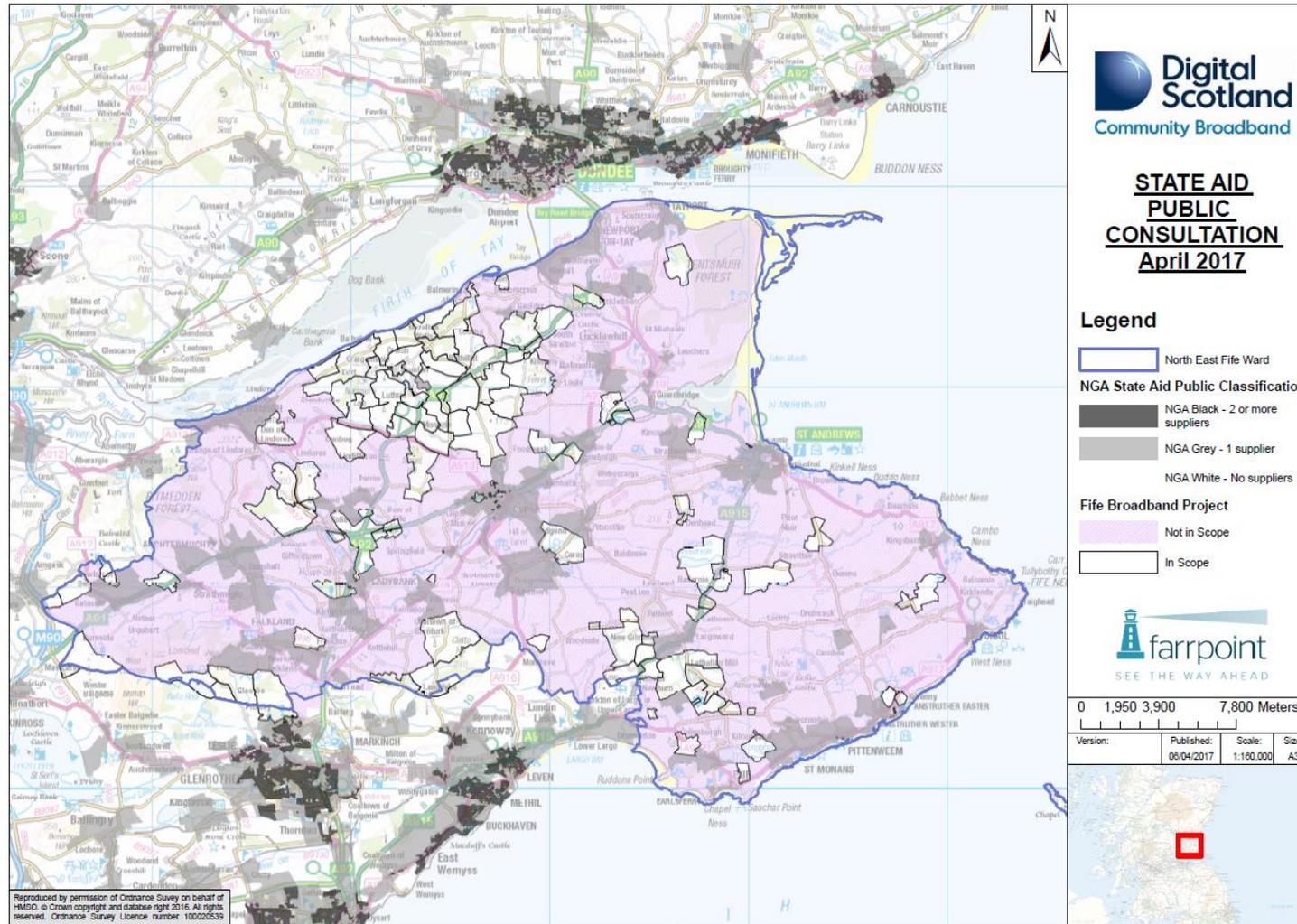
4. State Aid Maps

---

[1] EC Guidelines distinguish between geographic areas on the basis of current or planned (next three years) broadband infrastructures thus:
- 'White' areas are those in which there is no qualifying broadband infrastructure and none is likely to be developed in the near future (within three years);
- 'Grey' areas are those where one network operator has a qualifying presence and another qualifying network is unlikely to be developed in the near future; and
- 'Black' areas are those where there are, or there will be in the near future, at least two qualifying network operators.

Updated State Aid Maps - The updated NGA State Aid map is shown below:

Figure 1: NGA Broadband State Aid Map

5.   Stakeholder Responses

Whilst the key purpose of the consultation was to check back with suppliers our understanding of their current or planned coverage proposals for broadband infrastructure, it was also to take account of any new private or publicly funded community broadband schemes and to give an opportunity for the public to comment. No responses were received from the public.

6. Status of Intervention Area

The State Aid Public Consultation is now closed. Highlands & Islands Enterprise will submit the State Aid (Part 1) notification to the National Competence Centre (part of the Department for Culture Media and Sport) which oversees the UK National Broadband Scheme. This will set out the Intervention Areas mapped above. When clearance is granted, meaning the Intervention Areas mapped above are confirmed as eligible for public sector intervention by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, then the procurements will commence as per the indicated timescales in Section 2.

7. Contact Details

If you have any comments or questions regarding the project, you can get in touch with the Community Broadband Scotland project team by email at: cbs-enquiries@hient.co.uk

Up-to-date information about Community Broadband Scotland can be found at: http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland/