

# Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project

*State aid public consultation report*

Report on responses received, discussions undertaken, and adoption of the proposed intervention area.

19 September 2014

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## 1. Introduction

This document reports responses to the State Aid Public Consultation<sup>1</sup> into the eligible intervention area for investment of public funds into broadband infrastructure issued by Community Broadband Scotland on 18 March 2014. The period of consultation closed on 18 April 2014.

The consultation is relevant to the proposed Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project area procurement which was defined after consultation with the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, BDUK, Argyll & Bute Islands Council and various telecommunications providers.

The Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project invited comment from telecommunications providers, businesses and residents regarding the scope, aims and objectives and responses are detailed in the following report.

The purpose of the Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project is to deliver superfast broadband to all parts of project area by 2015. The programme aims to deliver 24Mbps or more to 100% of premises in the project footprint.

## 2. Purpose of this State Aid Public Consultation Report

Under the European Commission's State Aid guidelines, public sector intervention in broadband infrastructure investment is limited to those areas where there is no current or planned (within the next 3 years) commercial deployments, to avoid distorting what might otherwise be/become a competitive market.

The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Projects in the Highlands and Islands and Rest of Scotland aim to provide fibre broadband infrastructure to those areas not covered through commercial deployment. Combined with the current commercial roll-out plans, around 85% of premises in Scotland should have fibre broadband by the end of 2015 and 95% by the end of 2017.

In August 2012, the Scottish Government launched Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) to assist rural communities and allow them to take greater ownership and play a central role in securing the broadband services they need, which will in turn deliver significant benefits to local and rural economies. CBS support will complement the roll out of the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband project and will focus on communities unlikely to obtain NGA coverage before 2017 (the final 5%)

The Public Consultation for the Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project is now complete and this report sets out the responses to the consultation and the actions taken as a direct result of these responses.

## 3. Public Consultation Response

One response was submitted from a telecommunications provider during the initial consultation period.

British Telecommunications plc (BT), indicated that it was contracted to Highlands and Islands Enterprise to deliver Next Generation Access (NGA) to all (non commercial) areas of the Highlands

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland/updates/state-aid.html>

and Islands. However they offered discussions to consider how best the two projects could be achieved across similar areas of operation in the Argyll Isles.

Following discussions between Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government, Community Broadband Scotland and BT, the Argyll Isles intervention area has been agreed and, subject to a satisfactory conclusion of the tender process and the appointment of a suitable supplier, the project area (or an agreed part thereof) will be de-scoped from the Highlands and Islands Next Generation Broadband Project.

BT has been very open, constructive and supportive in working through this process.

The Argyll Isles Project, to be known as Gigaplus Argyll, will complement the HIE/BT project. As such, as PA31 8QN in the Craignish area is expected to receive a benefit from the HIE/BT project, it has been removed from the Argyll Isles Project intervention area. This is the only postcode removed from those listed in the public consultation document.

Residents and businesses based within our community were also invited to comment on this document and the proposed intervention area. A total of 2 written responses were received highlighting specific postcodes on Jura and requesting inclusion within the project intervention area. These postcodes and others highlighted at meetings with the individual community groups comprising the Argyll Isles project have been reviewed against projected coverage from the HIE/BT programme rollout and as a result the list of postcodes defining the Intervention has been amended to include the 10 postcodes detailed in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Additional postcodes to be included in the intervention area

Postcode	Postcode
PA44 7PR	PA47 7SZ
PA60 7XL	PA60 7XY
PA60 7XZ	PA61 7YP
PA75 6QU	PA76 6SL
PA76 6SN	PA76 6SQ

The revised postcode list for the project intervention area is detailed in Table 2 in section 4.1 and depicted on the map in section 4.2.

## 4. Revised Project Intervention Area

### 4.1 Postcodes and Properties

Table 2 shows the number of properties in each postcode that form part of the intervention area and are considered as Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband White – premises without access to NGA broadband.

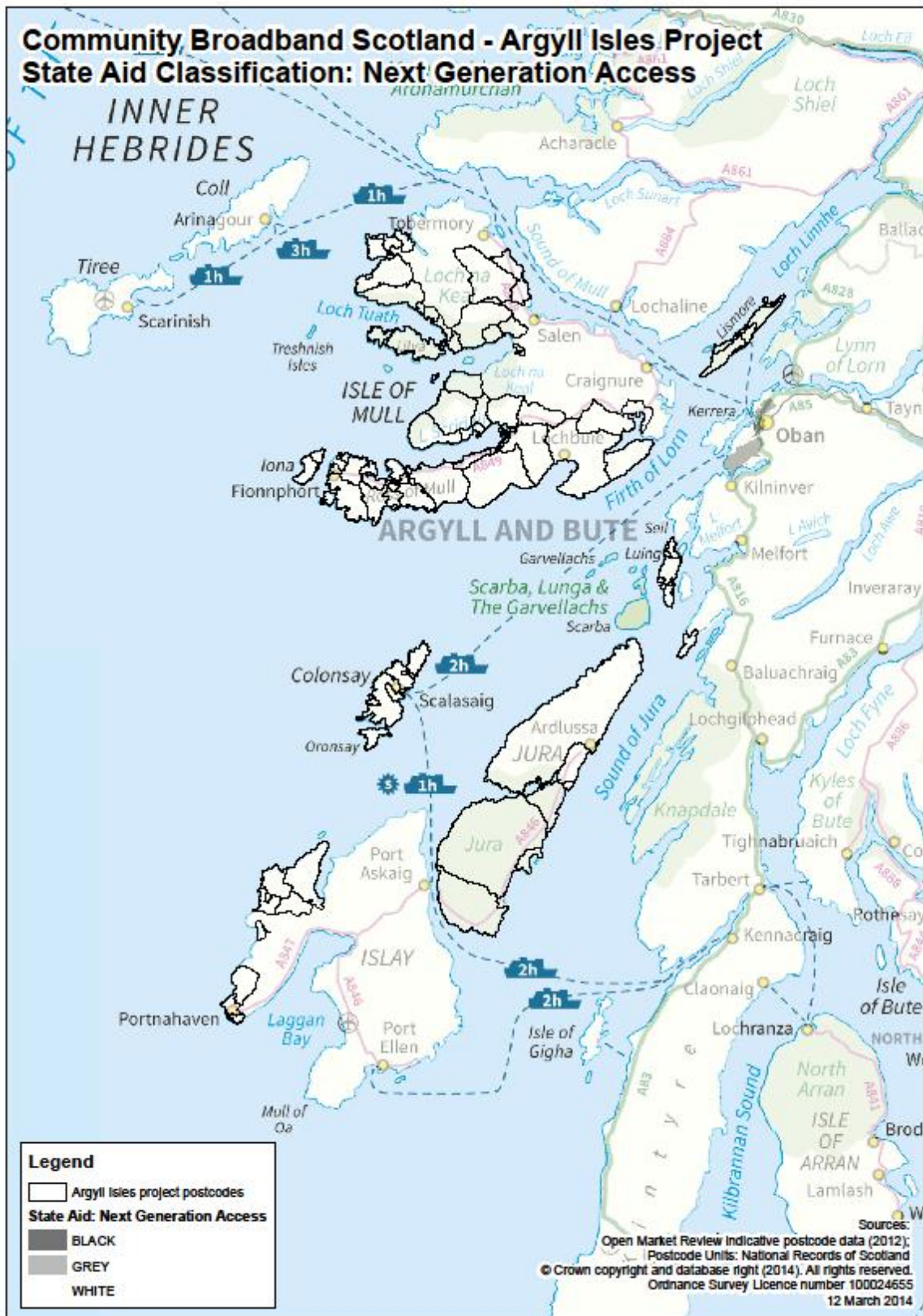
Table 2 – NGA White area properties by postcode

<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Total properties</b>	<b>NGA white properties</b>
PA31 8QS	17	17
PA34 4TU	12	12
PA34 4TX	26	26
PA34 4TY	7	7
PA34 4TZ	9	9
PA34 4UA	12	12
PA34 4UB	47	47
PA34 4UD	2	2
PA34 4UE	28	28
PA34 4UF	4	4
PA34 4UG	6	6
PA34 4UH	2	2
PA34 5UG	31	31
PA34 5UH	6	6
PA34 5UJ	4	4
PA34 5UL	47	47
PA34 5UN	23	23
PA34 5UQ	11	11
PA44 7PP	16	16
PA44 7PR	1	1
PA44 7PS	11	11
PA44 7PT	8	8
PA44 7PU	7	7
PA47 7SG	4	4
PA47 7SH	15	15
PA47 7SJ	10	10
PA47 7SL	5	5
PA47 7SN	9	9
PA47 7SP	20	20
PA47 7SQ	8	8
PA47 7SR	9	9
PA47 7SS	5	5
PA47 7ST	14	14
PA47 7SU	12	12
PA47 7SW	8	8
PA47 7SX	6	6
PA47 7SY	12	12
PA47 7SY	9	9
PA49 7UX	8	8
PA49 7UY	6	6
PA60 7XG	26	26
PA60 7XH	6	6
PA60 7XJ	5	5

PA60 7XL	2	2
PA60 7XQ	3	3
PA60 7XW	11	11
PA60 7XX	15	15
PA60 7XY	1	1
PA60 7XZ	20	20
PA61 7YN	14	14
PA61 7YP	1	1
PA61 7YR	53	53
PA61 7YS	7	7
PA61 7YT	28	28
PA61 7YU	9	9
PA61 7YW	43	43
PA61 7YZ	6	6
PA62 6AA	28	28
PA63 6AH	9	9
PA65 6BD	11	11
PA66 6BH	8	8
PA66 6BL	42	42
PA66 6BN	12	12
PA66 6BP	12	12
PA66 6BS	3	3
PA66 6BT	12	12
PA66 6BU	3	3
PA66 6BW	14	14
PA67 6DA	6	6
PA67 6DG	42	42
PA67 6DH	36	36
PA67 6DJ	3	3
PA67 6DL	9	9
PA67 6DN	18	18
PA67 6DP	22	22
PA67 6DQ	14	14
PA67 6DR	3	3
PA67 6DS	9	9
PA67 6DT	5	5
PA67 6DU	17	17
PA67 6DW	18	18
PA67 6DX	7	7
PA68 6EH	3	3
PA68 6EJ	9	9
PA68 6EL	1	1
PA69 6ER	5	5
PA69 6ES	10	10
PA69 6ET	2	2
PA69 6EU	5	5

PA70 6HB	22	22
PA70 6HD	10	10
PA70 6HE	12	12
PA70 6HF	10	10
PA70 6HG	2	2
PA70 6HQ	3	3
PA71 6HS	1	1
PA71 6HT	2	2
PA71 6HU	1	1
PA72 6JR	2	2
PA72 6JS	18	18
PA72 6JU	12	12
PA72 6JY	5	5
PA72 6JZ	4	4
PA73 6LT	7	7
PA73 6LU	6	6
PA73 6LX	3	3
PA73 6LY	16	16
PA73 6LZ	11	11
PA73 6NA	7	7
PA74 6NH	25	25
PA75 6QQ	5	5
PA75 6QS	34	34
PA75 6QT	13	13
PA75 6QU	1	1
PA75 6QX	1	1
PA75 6QY	8	8
PA76 6SJ	44	44
PA76 6SL	1	1
PA76 6SN	1	1
PA76 6SP	48	48
PA76 6SQ	1	1
PA76 6SW	23	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>1504</b>

## 4.2 Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project area map





## 5. Procurement Process

The Argyll Isles Community Broadband Project is in the process of establishing the legal entity (Gigaplus Argyll) that will run a Competitive Dialogue Procurement process. Information in this report has been used to define the Intervention Area in order for Gigaplus Argyll to undertake a State Aid compliant procurement process for broadband infrastructure.

The estimated procurement key milestones are as follows:

Activity	Date
Issue of the PQQ and OJEU notice	6th October 2014
Issue of the Invitation to Tender (ITT)	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
ITT Return Deadline	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Preferred Bidder	March 2015

## 6. Your views

While the public consultation has closed we welcome further responses from all stakeholders up until publication of the OJEU notice.

Responses should be addressed to Campbell Cameron at:

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Highlands & Islands Enterprise  
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