



3rd March 2017

Highlands & Islands Enterprise Community Broadband Scotland

LUNAN VALLEY STATE AID PUBLIC CONSULTATION – CLOSURE NOTE

1. Outcome of the Public Consultation

The Lunan Valley project area was the subject of a combined Public Consultation run between 7th October 2016 and 11th November 2016 to which no response was received. Following this, a decision was taken that the Mount Blair community would run a separate project. It was also identified that 14 postcodes, believed to be NGA white, had been missed from the combined Public Consultation. It was therefore decided to open a new Public Consultation to ensure no supplier plans existed for these 14 postcodes. The Public Consultation for the areas of Lunan Valley and Amulree opened on 30th January 2017 and closed on 2nd March 2017, with no response or comment received from any stakeholder.

Following this process, the intervention area for the project was finalised prior to commencing procurement. The final State Aid maps for NGA Broadband is provided in Section 4 and is available on the Highlands & Islands Enterprise Community Broadband Scotland website at:

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

2. Timescales

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

Activity	Date
Consultation period for the State Aid Public Consultation	30th January 2017 to 2nd March 2017
Submit State Aid notification (Part 1) to the Department for Media Culture and Sport	March 2017

Issue Invitation to Tender	March 2017
Submit State Aid notification (Part 2) to the Department for Media Culture and Sport	September 2017
Sign contract	Autumn 2017

3. Revised State Aid Maps

The following criteria have been used by Highlands & Islands Enterprise to determine the classification of areas into Basic Broadband and NGA (Next Generation Access) White/Grey/Black¹ areas respectively:

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

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.

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.

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The following tables summarise the outcome of the Public Consultation in terms of White, Grey and Black postcodes and premises for NGA in each area:

The Superfast Broadband Intervention Area includes 387 NGA White premises spread over 58 NGA White postcodes.

	Number of postcodes	Number of black premises	Number of grey premises	Number of white premises
Black postcodes	0	0	0	-
Grey postcodes	0	0	0	-
White postcodes	58	0	0	387

4. State Aid Maps

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Updated State Aid Maps - The updated NGA State Aid maps are shown below:

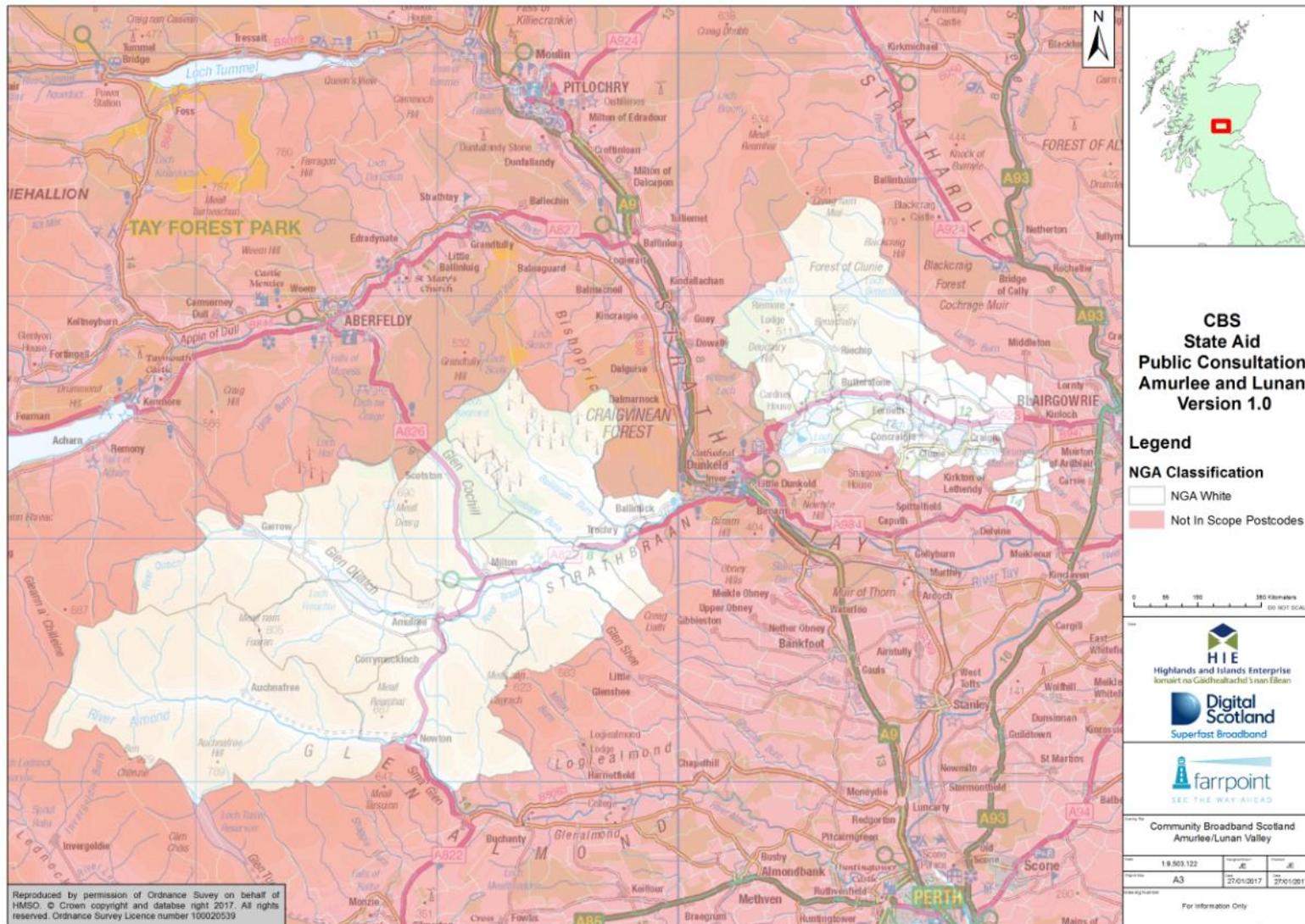


Figure 1: NGA Broadband State Aid Map

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 and businesses to comment. No responses were received from the public, businesses or suppliers.

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. The Intervention Areas mapped above are confirmed as eligible for public sector intervention by Highlands & Islands Enterprise and procurement will therefore commence as per the timescales set out 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/>