

Briefing Paper to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

Wards: n/a

Date of Committee: 21 November 2025

Wi-Fi Renewal / Upgrade Works November 2025 Update

Briefing Paper of the of Executive Director for Corporate Services

1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

1.1 This paper provides an update on the progress of the Wi-Fi Renewal and Upgrade works across the corporate buildings. It outlines the position at the Guildhall, with works recommencing on site.

2. Background

2.1 The Wi-Fi Renewal/Upgrade works have been implemented following the identification of Virgin Media O2 (VMB02) as Contractor for the works in line with their Wi-Fi Access Point Location requirements set out with ICT. Installation of the works has since been subcontracted by VMB02 to both Plexus Networking Ltd and Paragon Data Services Ltd (PDS) on the various sites across the portfolio.

2.2 The programme was split into two phases:

- **Phase 1:** 10 buildings, including Guildhall.
 - Louis Pearman Centre
 - 79 Lowgate
 - Kenworthy House
 - Lil Bilocca House
 - Wilson Centre
 - Albermarle Music Centre
 - Stockholm road
 - Central Library
 - Warehouse 9
 - Guildhall

- **Phase 2:** Planned for 50+ additional buildings, scheduled to commence w/c 24th November.

2.3 Phase 1 Site Works commenced in December 2023 and has currently been completed within 9 buildings. Of these, most did not have Listed Building requirements therefore did not raise implications with the standard installation of replacement Wi-Fi Access Point. This now leaves Guildhall to complete under phase 1.

2.4 Challenging installations have centred around the need for acceptable long-distance distribution around the buildings with appropriate use of existing server cabinet locations, prior to localised routing of cables to the ultimate position of the new Wi-Fi Access Point.

2.5 The Guildhall is by far the most complex building included in the programme as a listed building Following engagement with colleagues from both BDS and Planning, the final approach has now been confirmed. The contractor will commence work on Guildhall floors 2 & 3, with installation taking place w/c 17th November 2025, with the ground floor and floor 1 being further assessed during the installation on floors 2 & 3 with the aim to commence installation on the final floors in January 2026.

2.6 Final decisions on the location of wi-fi access points, given building and conservation constraints, relating to the lower floors will be taken over the 2 months.

2.7 To minimise disruption, some Wi-Fi Access Points have been relocated or temporarily omitted without compromising coverage. Cabling has been left in ceiling voids where future adjustments may be needed, avoiding unnecessary changes

Next steps

3.1 ICT and BDS will continue working with the contractor to complete Guildhall installations floor by floor, starting with the second and third floors, w/c 17th November 2025.

3.2 Phase 2 will start w/c 24th November 2025.

3.3 Listed building consent reviews will continue for Phase 2 sites as required.

3.4 ICT and BDS will keep building users informed of installation dates and service impacts.

Executive Director for Corporate Services

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Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - None