

Title of Report:	Participation in DSIT Regulators' Pioneer Fund (RPF4) – National Mobile Coverage Mapping Project
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	NO

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement and Innovation
Outcome	Businesses and household have access to high quality broadband which supports the digital economy and the development of learning and skills.
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	September 2026

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that the Council is listed as a supporting partner in a joint Wales-Northern Ireland funding application under the RPF4, led by Caerphilly County Borough Council and coordinated in Northern Ireland by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council.

2.0 Background

The UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is running Round 4 of its Regulators' Pioneer Fund, aimed at supporting regulatory innovation

A collaborative bid is being submitted by Caerphilly County Borough Council (on behalf of all Welsh local authorities), Glasgow City Council (on behalf of all Scottish local authorities) and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (on behalf of all Northern Ireland local authorities) in partnership with StreetWave, a telecoms data innovator.

The project proposes LoRaWAN-enabled mobile signal mapping across all 11 council areas in Northern Ireland.

3.0 Project Objectives

The following objectives have been identified for the project:

- To gather real-world mobile signal data across NI council areas using drive & walk studies and LoRaWAN devices.
- To support regulatory innovation and investment planning through verified, hyperlocal coverage insights.
- To inform future digital infrastructure decisions, including emergency services coverage and rural accessibility.

4.0 Council's Role

Subject to a successful bid, there is no financial or resource commitment required from Council to deliver this project.

Council is asked only to support inclusion in the bid as a partner. Optionally, councils may share a relevant local use case (e.g. known coverage gap, blackspot, community impact story).

Outcome of the bid is expected by the end of September 2025.

Members are asked to note Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council's inclusion as a supporting partner in the RPF4 bid and that officers will liaise with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on any future steps or outputs.