

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT, TOURISM, RECREATION AND HERITAGE  
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2016**

**ISLE OF WIGHT BROADBAND**

The Isle of Wight's multi million pound rural broadband project has been successfully completed with fibre broadband now available to 99 per cent of households and businesses on the island, making it one of the best connected areas in the UK.

The partnership between the Isle of Wight Council, BT and the government's Broadband Delivery UK programme has achieved the target of reaching more than 20,000 Isle of Wight premises. When combined with the 51,000 premises reached by the private sector's commercial rollout of the technology, it means the Island now has 99 per cent fibre coverage.

Take up of services by residents and businesses has been good and to date (1 June) 4,520 premises have subscribed to the new services that are available to them.

Since the beginning of the broadband partnership, 109 rural fibre broadband cabinets have 'gone live' around the Island. The multi-million pound rural broadband partnership is jointly funded by the Isle of Wight Council, which has invested £2.4 million to match the funding provided by the UK government through the Broadband Delivery UK programme - and BT, which was contributing capital and ongoing revenue funding of £2.7 million. The new fibre-based network is open to all broadband internet service providers on an open access basis, so customers – both residential and business - have access to a wide choice of broadband providers.

**FLOATING BRIDGE**

**Ticketing solution**

Following several months of system development, equipment purchase and set up, the two tier pricing system went live at noon on Wednesday, 1 June 2016. Individual foot passenger return fares are now £1.00 for all foot passengers aged over 18. However, 'saver card' users will receive a 30 per cent discount on each return trip, at 70p once cards are registered online.

Since the launch 972 cards have been sold (as at 9am on Tuesday, 7 June) and credit of approximately £8,000 has been added to these.

**Construction of replacement bridge**

Work to fabricate the superstructure which includes the hull, car deck and both chain troughs is substantially complete with all of the welding to this phase scheduled for completion in the next few days. Once complete work will then commence on the

passenger accommodation, engine room and drive systems. The new bridge is on target to be delivered to site, tested and commissioned by the end of January 2017.

## **MEDINA LEISURE CENTRE**

### **Creation of Cyclone studio and extension to the Tone Zone Gym**

Works to extend the hugely popular Tone Zone gym at Medina Leisure Centre are progressing well; when complete and open in September 2016 it will double the existing capacity to 500 square metres and provide a wide range of cardio and resistance equipment. With state of the art equipment and highly trained staff it will provide a fitness solution for everyone whether you're training to get fit, stay fit or to improve your performance.

The new Cyclone studio is complete and has been equipped with 25 high quality Keiser spin bikes; the studio will open to the public on 20 June 2016 and will provide a valuable addition for both existing and potential One Card holders.

**Councillor Shirley Smart**

**Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage**