

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT, TOURISM, RECREATION AND HERITAGE  
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL  
ON WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**Floating bridge – construction of replacement bridge**

Work continues to progress well and is on programme for the new bridge to be operational by the end of January/early February 2017. Work is well underway on the ancillary elements of the project which include:

**Works to slipways and adjacent footways** – This will provide new slipway surfaces and this will enable foot passengers to queue and board from the north side without the need to cross vehicles that are being loaded/unloaded.

**Construction of a new foot passenger waiting area at East Cowes** – This will replace the existing waiting room which will be converted into a store/workshop.

**Signage** – A complete review of all signage - through this process we will considerably reduce the number of signs that in place and therefore improve the visual amenity value of both areas.

**Advertising on the bridge** - We are currently completing an invitation to tender pack for agencies to sell advertising on the bridge; this will include – but not be limited to - poster frames on the car deck, use of the LED televisions for live advertisements and various locations on the superstructure ie the hulls and prows for branding by suitable companies.

**Medina Leisure Centre, extension to the Tone Zone Gym**

Work on the Tone Zone gym extension has progressed well and has been completed within budget; equipment (supplied by Pulse Fitness – one of the UK's leading suppliers) was installed and the new 510 square metres space will open to customers on Thursday 22 September. Existing and new gym users will benefit from more cardio and resistance equipment as well an increased range of free-weights. The state of the art equipment features LCD screens and a range of Freeview channels and iPod capability.

**The Rural Broadband Project**

The Rural Broadband Project has concluded its delivery activity on the Isle of Wight. The project has delivered 20,254 total homes passed - and of that figure, 18,080 are at superfast speeds.

Overall, 111 structures have been delivered, including seven structures that deliver through fibre to the premise technology (FTTP) the other structures being a mix of large, small and all-in-one cabinets.

The Rural Broadband Project also completed all remaining cabinets from BT's commercial roll out activity. Unfortunately one Rural Broadband Project cabinet was not completed and options for its completion are under discussion.

BDUK has carried out assurance activity on reports provided by BT and is satisfied that the contract has been met. It is noted that there is an underspend on this project; work is therefore currently underway to complete assurance activity on BT's final end of life claim.

**Councillor Shirley Smart**  
**Executive Member for Public Transport, Tourism, Recreation and Heritage**