



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Minister for Culture, Communications
and Creative Industries
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000
F: 020 7211 6309

www.gov.uk/dcms

Mr Ronan Cregan
Director of Finance and Resources
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

CMS 232731/asg
1 July 2013

Dear Ronan

Thank you for submitting Belfast's new Super-Connected City Plan. BDUK has now assessed all cities' plans against the vision for projects that deliver growth through connectivity by 2015 as set out in my letter of 2 May.

I am delighted to confirm that your proposals have been approved in principle as fitting within these parameters. As requested, funding for the following projects will be made available:

- Up to £9.8million for a voucher scheme
- Up to £1.31million on a wireless concession for the city centre
- Up to £2.35million on wifi in public buildings

These approvals will continue to be subject to BDUK assurance arrangements, including confirming the State aid compliance of your proposals as they are refined, value for money and overall deliverability. I understand conversations are underway to establish the nature and ownership of the buildings associated with your public buildings' projects and to confirm the State aid position. I have asked your BDUK Project Director to discuss this with you in further detail and work with you over the next few weeks to confirm the detail of my in-principle approvals and create a formal conditional offer.

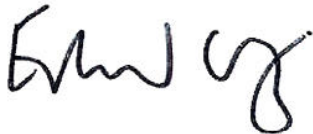
I know that in a number of cases cities will now feel they are ready to move quickly to the delivery phase and I have asked BDUK to move quickly to support you in this. As part of this BDUK will be making available some further support documents in the coming weeks, including toolkits to support the delivery of Wireless Hotspots and Concessions.

As you know, our biggest challenge to moving into delivery has always been the issue of State aid, and in particular how it would apply to the connection voucher scheme.



Following my latest visit to the European Commission at the end of May, they remain supportive of the principle of a voucher scheme and are keen to work with the UK to test the market, to gauge the reaction of suppliers and SMEs, and ensure their support. To this end BDUK has launched a four week market consultation, to be followed immediately by some active market tests over the summer. Your voucher preparations were assessed as strong and I would be delighted if you would form one of the first cities to market test these vouchers – I know the BDUK team has already been in touch to discuss this possibility.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the considerable work put in by you and your team over the recent months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey'.

Ed Vaizey MP

Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries