

1.8 Minimum download speed should be higher than the 10mb/s currently proposed. Technology and the use of technology is rapidly changing and the proposed USO will be outdated before it is installed.

1.9 Agree that the most effective technology should be used for each given location.

1.10 In rural areas the increased capital and revenue costs of the service are usually passed onto the consumer. This creates a digital divide and therefore a more uniform approach to pricing should be instigated. This could be based on a national price average equivalent.

1.11 A social tariff would certainly support a number of rural residents who suffer from being part of the hidden deprivation group.

1.12 The demand for USO will be high providing the technical performance and the retail pricing of the service appropriate. Rural businesses will not be able to operate on intermittent uploads and downloads. The current satellite scheme is not popular as the service is poor and the revenue costs are for consumers.

1.14 The take of USO should be considered with advances in technology. In some areas 4G services are proving very good for rural residents. This may be improved with 5G or other systems. We certainly need to move away from the current BDUK programme approach of one size fits all.

1.23 It is possible that residents and businesses could be issued with vouchers. These could then be combined by whole communities to give service providers the confidence to install the latest technological services.

1.14. Given that the more remote rural areas have no broadband at the moment it would seem sensible to expect that take up would be high. More services are online, schools material is online, health services reaching homes online etc. It is unreasonable to see this in terms of the current take up of superfast broadband which is often providing a high level of service not currently needed by all households or businesses.

1.25. The use of a number of USP's should be appointed. A voucher scheme for households and businesses would then enable a local discussion and solution to be found. As we have seen with the BT Openreach BDUK superfast programmes a one provider system does not always work to the advantage of the consumer.