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Thursday 5 January 2017

*Mr J Cobley  
Managing Director  
The Skills and Growth Company  
c/o Cheshire East Council  
Sandbach Enterprise Centre  
Sandbach*

Dear Julian

**Superfast programme additional funding request.**

BDUK originally allocated Connecting Cheshire £2.118m of match funding for Phase 2 of the Superfast Rollout Programme. You have submitted a request for additional funding of up to a further £2.54m, to match against funding that is envisaged to come from the 2014-2020 ERDF programme. I am pleased to confirm that BDUK are content to accept your application subject to confirmation of the final ERDF funding (capital element only to be matched by BDUK). The £2.54m from BDUK will include the £300k remaining from the original Phase 2 allocation for Connecting Cheshire.

This funding offer is subject to rapid completion of the procurement process. BDUK's understanding is that the Open Market Review has been undertaken, and it is important that the market consultation and Invitation to Tender stages now follow rapidly. Please could you confirm timelines for these with BDUK as a matter of urgency. BDUK would like network build at least to commence during 2017 and for the funding to be deployed as quickly as possible thereafter.

BDUK will continue to provide assistance as necessary on the procurement and State aid processes.

As you will be aware, the funding availability is subject to any decisions impacting the BDUK Superfast Programme from HM Treasury which carries risk prior to contracting.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your Project Director, Carolyn Johnson, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

*Andrew Field (by email)*

**Andrew Field**

**Superfast Broadband Programme Director, BDUK**

