

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Schools' Budget Forum</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>November 19th, 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Changes to connection costs and network provisions within the County's schools</b>
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### Background

1. The "Learning in Digital Wales" programme presented quick and resilient connections to schools in Wales based on 10mbps for primary schools and 100mbps for secondary schools and primaries over 270 pupils.
2. The programme was introduced at the beginning of 2014, extending to include Wi-Fi connections throughout the schools.
3. There was significant investment in some areas, especially in some rural areas where the Openreach infrastructure did not reach the school. The purpose of the Investment was to introduce future proofed fibre connections to enable future growth.
4. Resilient connections have been provisioned within all of our schools with an upgrade programme over the coming months increasing speeds significantly.
5. These network improvements have enabled us to improve telephony provision within the schools, with 26 schools being provision thus far.
6. In addition to improving Service, the Information Technology Service have been negotiating improved competitive pricing with BT Global Services (the public sector network provider in Wales).
7. The campaign for improved pricing has yielded annual savings of £164,252 on the infrastructure cost.
8. Technical advances have contributed an additional £55,321 of savings per year.
9. The cost of the service and schools' allocations are reduced by equal amounts.
10. We are committed to improve connectivity to all schools whilst also safeguarding the provision from future cost increase.
11. This allows an opportunity to review the allocation method. The intention is to consult with schools about the following options -
  - a. continue with the present method
  - b. move closer to a distribution method based on pupil numbers