Background

The National Broadband Plan

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a Government policy initiative aimed at delivering high speed broadband to every citizen and business in Ireland. This objective is being achieved through a combination of accelerated commercial investment by telecoms operators, and a State intervention programme to provide high speed broadband to those parts of the country where it is not economically feasible for the commercial sector to invest.

The key elements of the programme are set out in the document “Ireland’s Broadband Intervention Strategy”


The Intervention Strategy sets out what services are required and how they will be delivered by the successful bidder(s). The Government’s ambition is that 100% of premises will have access to high speed broadband at the lowest cost to the State. The plan aims to ensure that there will be no need for future State intervention in the provision of high speed broadband in Ireland. Delivering the National Broadband Plan is a top priority for Government and responsibility for implementation has been allocated to two Government Departments –

Department of Communications, Climate Action, and Environment
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

In conjunction with this, the programme for a Partnership government agreed to establish a Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce, and which has completed a report, with agreed actions assigned to responsible bodies, (including Local Authorities) in December 2016.

The Government recognises the important role that Local Authorities play in assisting economic development, and facilitating the deployment of large public infrastructural projects generally. In order to deploy telecommunications infrastructure in Local Authority areas, there are various planning and process issues that are within the remit of the Local Authorities to address. It is these internal process and planning issues that active engagement is needed on to ensure the smooth deployment of the National Broadband Plan.

To assist the national roll-out Local Authorities have been requested by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to appoint a Broadband Development Officer for their respective areas. This is identified as Action 3, targeted for Q1 2017 within the aforementioned Taskforce report.
The role of the Broadband Development Officer falls into two major categories:

(1) To facilitate the successful roll-out of the National Broadband Plan in their respective Counties by acting as a single point of contact for the successful NBP contractor(s) and telecommunications companies generally.

(2) To develop and implement a Digital Strategy to encourage take up of high speed connectivity amongst all sectors of the population, including the creation of awareness of and the stimulation of demand for broadband services.

Given the importance which Donegal County Council has attached to broadband / telecommunications services as a key piece of economic infrastructure over many years, the Council has created a contract position of Broadband Development Officer, for a period of two years. This post will work as part of a team within a wider response by the Council in supporting and developing both economic and community development in the County.
1. **Character**
   Each candidate must be of good character.

2. **Health**
   Each candidate must be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.

3. **Education, Experience etc.**
   (i) Each candidate must:–

   (a) Hold a 3rd level qualification in an area or areas relevant to the position.

   (b) Have satisfactory knowledge and understanding of Telecommunications and Infrastructure development, economic activity and job creation strategies and plans, Community & Enterprise Development and the workings of Local Government generally.

   (c) Have a good understanding of the economic development objectives (including telecommunications infrastructure) contained in various Council strategies and plans, e.g. County Development Plan, Local Economic and Community Plan, Corporate Plan etc.

   (d) Have a good working knowledge of potential business/domestic customers and users in the county, and an understanding of the local context in Donegal (e.g. population, trends, urban centres, profile of businesses, existing telecoms infrastructure etc.) and unique challenges and opportunities facing the region (e.g. rurality, north west city region/border location etc.)

   (e) Have a good understanding of the current challenges/barriers facing businesses in accessing existing telecoms infrastructure

   (f) Have a good working knowledge of key stakeholders and partners, including e.g. working in collaboration with those marketing and promoting the region as a location for investment; tourism SMEs; economic development agencies; the Local Enterprise Office
(g) Have satisfactory skills in a number of the following areas:-

- Project development and/or management,
- Infrastructural development and processes (e.g. planning processes, legal/statutory requirements, environmental considerations etc)
- Contract Management,
- Business Analysis / Systems implementation,
- Network design, implementation and support,
- Geographic Information Systems
- Team leadership,
- Working with Community & Voluntary and Business Groups.
- Working with Businesses
- Pricing strategies, competitiveness
- Marketing, awareness raising campaigns
- Research and data analysis
- Funding models and financial strategies

**Essential:**

- Full valid driving licence and access to own transport
Broadband Development Officer

PARTICULARS

THE POSITION:

A Project Management Group will be established to oversee the successful implementation of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) in County Donegal and the Broadband Development Officer will be accountable to the Group. The post holder will report to the Head of Information Systems, the Broadband Development Officer will be tasked with facilitating the successful implementation of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) in County Donegal, as part of the overall implementation of the inter-agency, Donegal Digital Action Plan.

The Project Management Group will have representation from the following Directorates and additional representation as appropriate:

- Roads & Transportation
- Finance, Information Systems & Emergency Services
- Community, Enterprise & Planning Services

The Broadband Development Officer will liaise closely with the Council’s Planning Service, Roads Service, Municipal Districts, Community and Economic Development Units as well as ERNACT to support a wide reaching programme where digital adoption and innovation can prosper within the County.

The Broadband Development Officer will work in partnership with key agencies to support job creation and economic activity, through investment in enhanced telecoms infrastructure.

RESIDENCE:

The successful candidate shall reside in the district in which his/her duties are to be performed or within a reasonable distance thereof.

PROBATION:

Candidates shall be required to be on probation for an initial period, which will be a minimum 9 months. The Council shall have absolute discretion to extend such probation period.

WAGES:

Salary scale: €45,849

BASE:

The base shall be Lifford, Co. Donegal.
DUTIES:

The Council will assign duties to the successful candidate that is consistent with the agreed role description for this position.

A non-exhaustive list of duties is provided below:

The following list is not meant to be an exhaustive list and is provided only as a guidance note on the types of activities which the successful candidate will be required to undertake.

Servicing the project management group, the Broadband Development Officer will act as the operational lead in actioning, from a Local Authority perspective, the actions identified as part of the Taskforce Report and as part of the overall Digital Action Plan for Donegal County Council.

This will include:

(a) Working with the successful NBP Operator(s) to ensure an early and efficient rollout of the NBP in Donegal.
(b) Working with other Telecommunications Companies in Donegal to facilitate the delivery of broadband services throughout the county.
(c) Liaising with internal Donegal County Council business areas to facilitate the NBP rollout as required.
(d) Working with the various partner agencies including ERNACT, Local Enterprise Office, Economic Development Agencies etc to contribute to the implementation of the Donegal Digital Action Plan.
(e) Working closely with a range of organisations including the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Community and Voluntary Groups/Networks, as well as Business Groups / Networks.
(f) Preparing regular progress reports on the implementation of the NBP and Digital Strategy.
(g) Liaising with various stakeholders throughout the County as regards implementing aspects of the NBP and Digital Strategy.
(h) The Broadband Development Officer may be required to undertake other duties related to the role as required from time to time.

The ideal candidate for the position shall:

- Have project development experience in any of the private, public or community sector areas.
- Have project management experience in managing projects with various shareholders and complex interdependencies;
- Have excellent planning and organisational skills and the ability to inform and influence diverse project groupings;
- Have excellent knowledge/awareness of latest developments and trends in Telecommunications and Digital Strategy;
- Have an excellent understanding of the local context, and challenges / opportunities facing the region;
• Demonstrate the ability to deliver project objectives within budgetary constraints;
• Have a record of achievement in their career to date, demonstrating significant management skills including the ability to provide effective leadership and direction;
• Have a strong record of collaboration, excellent motivational skills and a commitment to meeting deadlines and delivering high quality customer service;
• Possess a strong knowledge of a local authority environment, culture and operations and a strong awareness of the strategic direction of local government; in particular as it relates to economic activity, community and enterprise supports
• Have proven management skills, strong detailed analytical ability, research skills;
• Be a self starter, capable of continuous self learning, new thinking, working to very tight deadlines and committed to achieving high quality results;
• Be decisive and innovative;
• Have excellent motivational skills and be capable of working equally well as a member of a team and as a leader;
• Have a strong commitment to the implementation of strategic change;

COMPETITION PROCESS

Completing the Application Form

Applications must be made on the official application form and all sections of the form must be fully completed.

The admission of a person to a competition, or invitation to attend an interview, is not to be taken as implying that Donegal County Council is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements of the position.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of completed application is as stated on application form. No late applications will be accepted.

Applications will only be accepted on the prescribed application form. Please forward completed application form by way of e-mail to - vacancies@donegalcoco.ie

Selection methods

These may include:

- shortlisting of candidates on the basis of the information contained in their application form to reduce the list of candidates to a more manageable number for interview;
- a competitive interview

Candidates should make themselves available on the date requested by the Council and should make sure that the contact details specified on the application form are correct.

Donegal County Council will not be responsible for refunding any expenses incurred by candidates.
Short-listing

In the event of a short-listing exercise being employed, an Expert Panel will convene to examine the application forms and assess them against pre-determined criteria based on the requirements of the position. It is therefore in your own interest to provide a detailed and accurate account of your qualifications/experience on the application form.

Right to Information and Review

The Council is committed to offering feedback and information to candidates. Any candidate, who wishes to have a decision or the process reviewed, can request same. Any such request must be submitted in writing, stating the grounds of the request, and this must be submitted within 5 working days from the date of notification of a relevant decision.

Confidentiality

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 applications will be treated in strict confidence.

NOTES:

Applicants are reminded that any attempt by themselves or by any persons acting on their behalf, directly or indirectly by means of written communication or otherwise, to canvass or otherwise influence in the candidate’s favour any officer of the County Council or persons nominated by the Chief Executive to interview or examine applicants, will automatically disqualify the applicant for the position they are seeking.