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Subject: Free SIM Cards and Data Vouchers

Flintshire becomes first Council in North Wales to launch a Databank.

FLINTSHIRE CONNECTS County Council has joined forces with Good Things Foundation to ensure residents on low incomes are digitally enabled by providing them with free SIM cards and data vouchers through the National Databank.

Free SIM cards and data vouchers are available from our five Connects Centres* to eligible residents, taking a trust-based approach. The free data has been provided by Virgin Media O2, Vodafone and Three.

Good Things Foundation is a charity helping people improve their lives through digital and their vision fits well with the Council's ambitions.

Flintshire's Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services, Councillor Billy Mullin, said:

"Providing free data SIMs to residents in low income households means no one should be left behind in our developing digital world. The teams at our Connects Centres are available to support residents to access the internet and I encourage anyone who needs our help to get in touch."

As part of the Council's digital vision, we are working with partners to support people to get online, helping residents access the internet, data connectivity and devices, helping to fix the digital divide in communities.

Good Things Foundation's Director for Evidence and Engagement, Emma Stone, said:

"We are thrilled Flintshire has come on board and joined our network and National Databank. As a proud partner to Cwmpas and Digital Communities Wales - we hope more councils and community organisations will follow Flintshire's example and help to tackle data poverty and fix the digital divide in communities."

You can find out about the National Databank and Good Things Foundation here.

For information about the Databank contact your local Connects Centre – see attached leaflet.

