

**NEWSLETTER 7 – DECEMBER 2012**

This is the seventh newsletter produced by Northamptonshire County Council on the *superfast Northamptonshire* initiative. This edition highlights an opportunity for proactive local communities to bid for funding to deploy superfast broadband.

**Background**

Northamptonshire County Council is currently procuring a supplier to deliver superfast broadband to the parts of the county which are not commercially viable without some public subsidy.

The County Council and government have both committed £4.08m of funding to date. The selected supplier will also provide funds. A decision on the supplier is due to be made in February 2013. However, additional funding is needed to help the County Council meet its target of full countywide coverage of superfast broadband by 2017. This is due to the higher costs of providing superfast broadband to the rural areas.

An important source of funding is the Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) which is managed by government. This fund is particularly targeted at the 'harder to reach', more rural, areas.

The County Council has already supported a number of proactive local communities who have submitted bids to the RCBF.

**The opportunity**

A third, and probably final, round of RCBF is expected to be launched in January 2013. **The County Council wants to hear from local communities who are interested in submitting a bid.**

The first stage involves submitting an Expression of Interest. This is anticipated to be by Spring 2013. If successful a full application will then be submitted. The outcome will be known later in the year.



Important to the success of any application, and ultimately inclusion in the roll-out of superfast broadband, will be getting the support of the chosen supplier in terms of match-funding. The supplier must also confirm the local community is within the 'hardest to reach' areas.

Absolutely critical to a successful bid is a **strong drive, leadership and involvement from the local community.**

This includes co-ordinating a survey, ensuring a high level of response, and information gathering to illustrate strong local demand. It also includes identifying a main local point, or points, of contact for the project. Without this local commitment bids are likely to fail.

### What next?

If you are interested in leading a bid for your community, and want to find out more about what's involved and potential eligibility, please contact the following email address before the end of January 2013.

[bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### Rural Community Broadband Fund Update

Northamptonshire has six bids with government. Below is an update of their progress;

Bid	Status
Rockingham Exchange Upgrade	Full application submitted September 2012
Tove Valley	Full Application submitted July 2012
Warmington and Lutton	Full application submitted October 2012
Welford Exchange Upgrade	Full application submitted December 2012
Newbottle/ Kings Sutton and Charlton	Forecast full application date March 2013
Cottesbrooke	Forecast full application date June 2013

### Parish Broadband Surveys

The County Council has asked local communities to fill out our Parish Council survey. This helps us to highlight 'hot spots' of demand within the county and provides further information to suppliers.



**BUGLE DOWNLOADING TOO SLOWLY?**

**FILL IN THE SURVEY TO GET FASTER BROADBAND FOR WELFORD (AND SURROUNDING AREA)**

**CLICK ON THIS PICTURE TO GO TO THE SURVEY PAGE**

The County Council has received a great response to date and the current **top ten** standings are as follows;

Parish	No:
Welford Exchange	119
Rockingham Exchange	50
Middlemore, Daventry	49
Litchborough	38
Nassington	34
Aldwinckle	33
Ashley	32
Catesby	31
Dingley	19
Duddington	15

### Can you better, or build on, this level of support?

Further information on superfast Northamptonshire and the RCBF are available at [www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net](http://www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net)

**Finally, a thank you and best wishes from the team for Christmas and 2013**



**County Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage**

**Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Public Protection**