NEWSLETTER 12 – JULY 2014

Over £11.5m Boost to Superfast Northamptonshire

Over the last few months the County Council has been highly successful in securing additional funding to support the next stage of the Superfast Northamptonshire project. This is a major step in helping us to achieve our full coverage target by the end of 2017.

The County Council has committed a further £2m for Stage 2 on top of the £4.08m invested in the network roll out to 2015. Contributions have also been committed by the district and borough councils and the county council has secured over £8m from Government. This includes over £6m from the Broadband Delivery (BDUK) programme, including funding to enhance connectivity in the Enterprise Zone and £2m for business connectivity through the Local Growth Fund, a bid submitted in partnership with Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP) Procurement processes are now running to secure plans for the next major extension of coverage.

Further news will be announced by December 2014.

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DEAR READER

This is **a PLAIN TEXT VERSION** of our Newsletter. There are no photographs, illustrations, maps or graphics within it – it just contains the latest news in a simple format for anyone who has trouble downloading or printing our **FULL PUBLICATION VERSION** and for those Readers who may have difficulty reading text in colour. There may be some variances in content between both editions.

Fibre Live!

Roll Out Highlights

Since the launch of the first fibre cabinet in February, 69 cabinets have gone 'Live'.

This means that about **18,500** residential and business premises are able to access superfast broadband services as a result of the County Council's investment with BT. Parts of Weedon, Braunston, Long Buckby, Towcester, Silverstone, Pattishall, Paulsbury and Blisworth have seen new green fibre cabinets installed as part of the first phase. The second phase has seen new fibre cabinets installed in Northampton, Thrapston, Brixworth, Clopton, Oundle and Broughton. *See the table on the next page for more details.*

The full publication version of Newsletter 12 includes the latest view of the Deployment Map. To see how plans are progressing and changing you can view an interactive version of the Deployment Map on our project website. Visit the link below to access our 'When and Where' map. This enables you to explore expected deployment plans in the county and to search your postcode to find out what it means for you:

http://superfastnorthamptonshire.net/deployment-map-when-where/

What are the Superfast Northamptonshire Targets?	**Commercial Coverage:**
- To secure access to superfast broadband for 90% of premises in Northamptonshire by 2015 - To secure access to superfast broadband for all areas of Northamptonshire by the end of 2017	Expected to serve around 227,000 premises by 2017, based on a forecast of commercial plans at 2014 following a consultation with the market. Commercial network providers currently with interests in the county include: BT, Virgin Media, Independent Fibre Network Limited (IFNL), Gigaclear, WarwickNet and Abthorpe Broadband Association.
Superfast Phase 1:	**Superfast Phase 2:**
Co-investment partnership with BT - fibre connecting over 56,000 premises by September 2015 of which over 50,100 will have access to superfast broadband (above 24mbps).	Progressing towards full coverage (target to roll out up to a further 39,000 premises) - various Next Generation Strategy initiatives including BDUK Framework mini-competition in 2014, Access to Finance initiative 2014, Superfast Business 2014, supplier engagement with the wider market, other commissioning and initiatives - ongoing to end 2017.

Exchange Area	Cabinet Numbers:	Covering parts of these Communities
Blisworth	1, 2	Blisworth Milton Malsor **Covering 578 premises**
Braunston	1, 2, 5	Barby Braunston **Covering 601 premises**
Brixworth	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11	Brixworth **Covering 1,747 premises**
Broughton	1, 2, 4	Broughton **Covering 552 premises**
Kingsthorpe	1, 14, 38	**Covering 390 premises**
Long Buckby	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Long Buckby Long Buckby Wharf Whilton Whilton Locks Watford **Covering 1,774 premises**
Northampton	5, 11, 17, 18, 55, 91	**Covering 1,043 premises**
Pattishall	1,4, 5	Litchborough Pattishall **Covering 551 premises**
Paulerspury	1	Paulerspury **Covering 289 premises**
Silverstone	1, 3, 7	Silverstone Whittlebury **Covering 573 premises**
Thrapston	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13	Islip Titchmarsh Woodford **Covering 3,221 premises**
Towcester	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18	Duncote Greens Norton Tiffield Towcester Wood Burcote **Covering 4,861 premises**
Weedon	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Church Stowe Dodford Flore Nether Heyford Upper Stowe Weedon Bec, **Covering 2,350 premises**
Total	**69 cabinets**	**18,530 Premises are fibre connected**

The cabinets listed in the table have been upgraded under the Superfast Northamptonshire project and cover parts of the communities listed.

You can check availability by using the BT wholesale availability checker on line at www.btwholesale.com/adslchecker

What's coming next?

Further upgrades are now at the planning and survey stage, representing **an additional 155 new fibre cabinets in 46 different exchange areas** across the county and more to come.

Information on these is provided in the FULL PUBLICATION VERSION of Newsletter 12. Alternatively, you can find out more on the Roll Out page on the project website.

By September 2015 over 56,000 premises in Northamptonshire are expected to be fibre connected involving the roll out of over 280 new fibre cabinets.

Look out for the blue 'fibre heart' Superfast Northamptonshire stickers on new fibre cabinets in your area.

To find out how you can purchase a superfast service you can contact your internet provider.

You can also go to www.superfast-openreach. co.uk/buy-it-now to find out what is available to you.

More Premises in the Roll Out

As a result of efficiencies and enhanced technology performance more than 3,000 additional premises will soon be fibre connected through deployment plans with BT. This takes the overall fibre coverage for Stage 1 of the project to over 56,000 premises. These additional connections come at no extra cost to the project and have been integrated into the current deployment plans. The extra work will consist of 13 newly planned cabinets providing superfast broadband services to parts of these areas:

- ➢ Byfield
- ➢ Kettering
- ➢ Daventry
- ➢ Brackley
- ➢ Roade
- ➢ Towcester
- ➢ Kingsthorpe
- ➢ Desborough
- ➢ Northampton
- ➢ Rushden
- ➢ Wansford

A day in the life of an Openreach Engineer

Superfast Northamptonshire is lighting up new superfast broadband connections every single week. The roll-out is progressing at speed but it's far from a simple switch on. You may have seen our engineers digging in the streets, peering down holes or climbing up poles. They're working day and night on one of the biggest and most challenging engineering projects that Northamptonshire has ever seen.

Les Brumby, 51, from Broughton is a lead cabler at Openreach, BT's local network division, working on the Superfast Northamptonshire project. Below he gives a behind the scenes look into what's involved in bringing faster broadband to homes and businesses across the county.

"A typical day starts at around 7am After I've collected my vehicle I drive out to where I need to be that day. I lead a team of cablers; we're the ones that lay the new fibre optic cables under the ground.

In simple terms, we're building the new network's backbone - right from the telephone exchange to the green street cabinet. Under the ground is what we call ducting - plastic tubes that the existing copper network runs through. We lay new sub ducting (smaller plastic tubes) inside this and then, using a machine, we blow (yes, with air!) the new fibre optic cables through these ducts.

We're literally running miles of fibre optic cables under the ground. From Kettering to Broughton and Pytchley to Mawsley, we go from manhole cover to manhole cover, pulling and blowing the fibre along the way. We always survey and assess the route first to make sure that we take the path of least disruption. When we need to use traffic management we work through the night to keep disruption to a minimum whenever possible.

The job throws up its fair share of challenges. On some of our most rural routes we're laying a state of the art new network down manhole covers that haven't been opened for years. Sometimes we need to dig to find them. Or we'll open them to find blocked or sunken ducts that need recovering. The wet winter we've had has thrown up its challenges too. We can find manholes full of water that we have to

pump out, not to mention the mud and the frogs!

Once we reach the new green street cabinet that's where our job stops. We hand over to another team who connect the new fibre cabinet with the existing copper cabinet before the final link to the home or business is put in place.

It's not an easy job but it can be very satisfying. It's really nice when someone stops in the street and thanks us for what we are doing. And next week I'm laying the fibre that will serve my own house!"

Spotlight on Superfast Business:

TotalSim

Businesses across Northamptonshire are already seeing the benefits from superfast broadband. To share their experiences a series of short videos have been commissioned by the County Council to showcase what the superfast broadband connection means to them.

The first business video that has been released focuses on a Brackley based company **TotalSim (www.totalsimulation.co.uk).**

TotalSim use state of the art techniques to design the aerodynamics of vehicles and equipment. One of their projects was working on the design of the British Cycling equipment aerodynamics for the 2012 Olympics.

There will be six case studies in total covering a range of industry sectors in Northamptonshire.

To view the video and hear from **TotalSim** about their experience please visit the Project website www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net

T James and Northamptonshire Library Plus

T James Telecoms Limited (T James) is a Northamptonshire based telecommunications service supplier capable of delivering an innovative range of installation, commissioning and maintenance services to public and private sector organizations throughout the world. The company delivers complex telecommunications solutions covering fixed, mobile, wifi and fibre solution.

T James has provided complete custom solutions direct to government agencies looking to resolve the most challenging telecommunications issues.

T James, in association with the County Council, delivered a fully installed and managed public access WiFi system as part of an initiative to regenerate and enhance the library experience for the many visitors to Northamptonshire's libraries.

T James provided a complete turnkey solution including design, planning, installation and commissioning of software and hardware. The network is operated and centrally managed by T James in conjunction with the County Council to minimise the operational costs of running, configuring and maintaining the network.

This partnership has delivered real benefits for residents and visitors. The library WiFi project will enhance the overall visitor experience.

T James Mission Statement:
T James delivers complex professional telecommunications solutions globally to network operators and service suppliers through honesty integrity and innovation…

In a video about the project, Grace Kempster the Customers and Libraries Manager for Northamptonshire County Council said 'We are really delighted that across the county every week 55,000 people walk into our libraries and for us the provision of free wifi is absolutely essential to that experience'.

You can watch the video at **www.youtube.com watch?v=hhf39xHiVns**

Broadband statistics you may not know

➢ Half of all Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises and Small to Medium Sized Enterprises **(SMEs) don't have a website** (Britain's Digital Opportunity-GO ON UK and Lloyds Banking Group)

➢ On average offline households are missing out on savings of £560 per year (Government Digital Inclusion Strategy-GOV.UK)

➢ If everyone in the UK got online it would add another £63 billion to the economy (Government Digital Inclusion Strategy-GOV.UK)

➢ Digitally mature SMEs are twice as likely to see growth and increased turnover as those who are **not digitally mature and not utilising online technology** (Britain's Digital Opportunity-GO ON UK and Lloyds Banking Group)

➢ In SMEs higher turnover is positively correlated with more frequent use of the internet (Britain's Digital Opportunity-GO ON UK and Lloyds Banking Group)

How to stay in touch ...

To keep up to date with the latest news on the Superfast Northamptonshire project please visit the project site at:

www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net

Or for further information please email:
bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk

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