New Deal Takes County Closer to Full Coverage

Superfast Northamptonshire Plans Extended as County Council Secures a Second Deal with BT

Expected plans for Superfast Broadband confirmed

How can Superfast Broadband benefit you?

Public funded plans secured

The internet is essential to modern life. With superfast broadband you can do so much more and faster...

- You can watch TV over the internet like BBC iPlayer, download HD films and music in a flash.
- The whole family can get on-line at the same time without slowing things down.
- You can transform and grow your business using Cloud services, faster data transfer and engaging with your suppliers and customers more effectively.
- You can create, work and run a business from home or work remotely.
- You can learn on line and access healthcare and other public services more conveniently.

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.

The County Council has secured a second contract with BT worth £10.4m to extend superfast broadband plans in the county as part of the next stage of the Superfast Northamptonshire project. This involves £7.4m of public funding including commitments from the County Council, Government and the district and borough councils, and a further £3m capital investment by BT. It follows news earlier this year on the Council's success in raising funds for this next stage of the project.

The contract aims to provide access to superfast broadband (download speeds above 24Mbps) to a further 20,450 premises across Northamptonshire and primarily involves Fibre to the Cabinet technology (FTTC) with some Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) also expected. The County Council estimates that around 3,000 more local businesses are set to benefit. It extends existing plans with BT worth £8.4m in public investment which are well underway to provide more than 50,100 premises with access to superfast broadband by the end of 2015. BT is also contributing £3.2m to this first phase.

Northamptonshire is one of the first authorities nationally to secure its plans under the Government's 'Superfast Phase 2' programme, part of the national Superfast Britain campaign managed by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. BDUK is contributing £3.4m to the contract.

The County Council's target is to secure access to superfast broadband across Northamptonshire by the end of 2017 and this latest deal with BT takes the project a step closer towards this goal. This second stage will commence in 2016 once the network build for stage one is completed and currently the plans roll out until September 2018. This is later than the County Council's full coverage target for the project. BT and the Council will work together to explore opportunities and identify ways in which these plans could be brought forward.

The best place to see the extent of this next phase is to go to the **'When and Where'** map on the project website. The pink areas on the map show where the additional coverage is

planned. More information on the phasing of this will be available before stage two commences.

You may wonder how areas are chosen to be part of the coverage plans with BT. This is simple and is focused on those areas where there are no commercial plans i.e. the areas where public funding needs to be invested to secure a solution (the Intervention Area). BT were asked to model and plan a network which would deliver the most efficient and economically engineered solution whilst enabling as many premises as possible in the Intervention Area to benefit from access to superfast broadband (speeds above 24Mbps). Setting geographical priorities has been largely avoided by the County Council as this could have a detrimental impact on costs; the supplier is better placed to design the solution which is most cost effective in terms of coverage because only the supplier fully understands its existing network and how best to extend that to meet our project aims - we want to ensure that public sector funding has the greatest impact for as many local people and businesses as possible so that limited public funds can go further to help us achieve our full coverage target.

County Council cabinet member for strategic infrastructure Cllr Andre Gonzalez de Savage said:

"It's great news for the county and local economy that Northamptonshire has secured plans for the next major stage of the project ahead of many other parts of the UK. BT has responded to our call to improve business connectivity and the plans will see many more local communities benefit from access to superfast broadband.

"I am pleased BT has agreed to work with the County Council to explore how the timescales could be improved - this is critical to us to support our project targets."

This latest public investment means that around 95% per cent of all premises in the county are set to benefit from access to fibre broadband, when combined with the substantial commercial plans by BT and other telecoms providers.

Superfast broadband is rapidly becoming essential to how we live, learn and access services - making the basic day to day activities of modern life easier and quicker for people of all ages. It can help a business to transform productivity, supporting growth and innovation, as well as improving customer engagement and opening up opportunities worldwide.

Bill Murphy, BT Managing Director of Next Generation Access said:

"A lot of good work has taken place in Northamptonshire already. More than 206,000 homes and businesses in the county already have access to fibre broadband thanks to the Superfast Northamptonshire project and BT's commercial rollout. We look forward to extending that reach even further so more people can benefit from a highly competitive market - where they have choice of broadband providers and can select the package that suits them best."

Communications Minister Ed Vaizey said:

"Our rollout of superfast broadband in Northamptonshire has already reached more than 30,000 homes and businesses, and this further investment will help take coverage to 95 per cent of homes and businesses in the county. It's fantastic news for the people of Northamptonshire and will provide an additional boost to the local economy."

BT is playing a major part in bringing superfast broadband to Northamptonshire, both through its commercial build (with fibre broadband already available to more than 176,000 premises) and through the project, enabled by significant public investment. Read more about the technology in this edition of the Newsletter.

There is still more to be done in pursuit of the County Council's full coverage target, as was recognised in the Northamptonshire Next Generation Strategy published in 2013. The County Council will be bringing forward other initiatives working with BT and other telecoms providers as part of a £20m public investment which has been secured for the wider Superfast Northamptonshire project overall, which will be invested to secure solutions for the 'final 5%'. More news on this will be reported in 2015.

The project website provides more information about what is involved in broadband roll out. BT's delivery process from planning and survey to going live can take up to 9 month

BT expects to use both Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) and Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) technology.

FTTC brings fibre out from the telephone exchange to a new street cabinet which is then connected to the existing copper cabinet and the final leg of the network connection uses the existing copper line from the cabinet to the home or business.

FTTC can benefit many more premises more quickly and more cheaply than FTTP and therefore is normally the first choice of technology to be deployed for the project. It also provides better value for public money whilst providing download speeds of up to 80Mbps. The highest speeds are available to premises located closest to their serving cabinet.

For the first stage of the project with BT, over 56,700 premises will benefit from fibre based broadband and of these around 50,100 should get access to superfast speeds above 24Mbps. Most of the other fibre connected premises should benefit from a speed uplift, if not 'superfast' speeds. There will be a minority of premises that are simply too far away from their serving cabinet to see any real uplift from this particular solution - these premises will remain a focus for the Superfast Northamptonshire project as the County Council continues to bring forward initiatives to help deliver its full coverage target.

Where it does not make sense to deliver an FTTC solution, FTTP may be considered. This is more costly because it means building a fibre network all the way from the exchange to a home or business. FTTP involves more civil engineering works in order to lay more fibre network which can be more complex and take a little longer to deliver. BT's FTTP solution can support much higher download speeds of up to 330Mbps.

For more information about the technology is available on the project website. You can also watch BT's 'Big Build' video.

Fibre Live!

Since the launch of the first fibre cabinet in February this year, 137 new cabinets have been stood, connected and have gone 'live'.

This means that about 34,200 residential and business premises now have access to fibre broadband (as of 27th November 2014), the majority of which will be able to access superfast broadband services (speeds above 24Mbps). Without public funding from the County Council and BDUK, channelled through the Superfast Northamptonshire project and delivered with BT, these premises would not be benefiting from access to faster broadband services.
See the table on the next page for more details.

What are the Superfast Northamptonshire Project Targets?

- 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

Commercial Coverage

Expected to serve around 229,600 premises by 2017 (72% towards our targets), based on a forecast of commercial plans at 2014 following a consultation with the telecoms market. Commercial network providers currently with interests in the county include: Bridge Fibre, BT, Gigaclear, Independent Fibre Network Limited (IFNL), Virgin Media and WarwickNet.

Superfast Stage 1

Towards 90% coverage

County Council and BDUK co-investment with BT – this will provide over 50,100 premises with access to superfast broadband (speeds above 24Mbps) by the end of 2015.

Superfast Stage 2

Towards Full coverage

A second contract with BT to provide access to superfast broadband to a further 20,450 premises across the county from 2016. BT currently expects plans to be completed by Sept 2018, later than the County Council's full coverage target. BT and the County Council will be working together to explore opportunities and identify ways in which these plans could be brought forward.

A range of other initiatives to be progressed as part of the Next Generation Strategy including INV-ENT Digital (launched November 2014), other potential business connectivity measures, investment promotion to the wider telecoms market and other procurements ongoing to end 2017.

What's coming next?

Exchange area

Cabinets now live

Covering parts of these communities

Further upgrades are now at the planning and survey stage, representing an additional 112 new fibre cabinets in 45 different exchange areas across the county and there's more to come. By the end of 2015 over 50,100 premises in Northamptonshire will have access to superfast broadband involving the roll out of over 280 new fibre cabinets. See the table below to see how many cabinets are currently being surveyed and planned in your area.

Adderbury 5, 6 Kings Sutton **Covering 937 premises** Blisworth 1, 2 Blisworth, Milton Malsor **Covering 578 premises** Bozeat 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Bozeat, Grendon, Easton Maudit, Lower End **Covering 1,169 premises** Braunston 1, 2, 5 Barby, Braunston **Covering 601 premises** Brixworth 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12 Brixworth, Pitsford **Covering 1,890 premises** Broughton 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 Broughton, Mawsley Village, Pytchley **Covering 1,661 premises** Burton Latimer 13 Burton Latimer **Covering 165 premises** Clopton 2 Thorpe Waterville **Covering 76 premises** Cogenhoe 3, 6, 7 Cogenhoe, Little Houghton, Whiston **Covering 807 premises** Corby 41 Corby **Covering 126 premises** Daventry 51 **Covering 142 premises** Finedon 1, 3 Finedon **Covering 413 premises** Kettering 47, 62, 63, 82, 94 Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Warkton, Weekley **Covering 542 premises** Kingsthorpe 1, 5, 11, 14, 16, 19, 26, 34, 38 Kingsley Park, Kingsthorpe **Covering 1,006 premises** Kislingbury 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 Bugbrooke, Harpole, Kislingbury, Rothersthorpe **Covering 2,508 premises** Long Buckby 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Long Buckby, Long Buckby Wharf, Watford, Whilton, Whilton Locks **Covering 1,774 premises** Middleton Cheney 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 Chacombe, Farthinghoe, Middleton Cheney, Great Purston, Thenford **Covering 1,705 premises** Northampton 5, 11, 17, 18, 30, 37, 41, Cotton, Northampton 55, 68, 81, 87, 91 **Covering 1,822 premises** Oundle 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 Barnwell, Oundle, Polebrook, Armston, Ashton, Stoke Doyle **Covering 2,744 premises** Pattishall 1, 4, 5 Litchborough, Pattishall **Covering 551 premises** Paulerspury 1 Paulerspury **Covering 289 premises** Raunds 21 Ringstead **Covering 182 premises** Rothwell 2 Hannington, Orton **Covering 155 premises** Silverstone 1, 3, 7 Silverstone, Whittlebury **Covering 573 premises** Thrapston 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Islip, Lowick, Woodford, Woodwell, 11, 12, 13, 14 Titchmarsh, Thrapston, Sudborough, Denford, Twywell, Slipton **Covering 4,090 premises** Towcester 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Duncote, Greens Norton, Tiffield, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 Towcester, Wood Burcote **Covering 4,861 premises** Weedon 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Flore, Nether Heyford, Weedon Bec, Church Stowe, Dodford, Upper Stowe **Covering 2,350 premises** Wellingborough 36, 49, 56 Wellingborough **Covering 408 premises** Yardley Hastings 1 Yardley Chase, Yardley Hastings **Covering 280 premises**

Cabinet No. of cabinets locations to be surveyed

Adderbury 1
Blakesley 1
Brackley 1
Byfield 9
Cranford 1
Chipping Warden 1
Clipston 1
Clopton 1
Corby 1
Crick 5
Daventry 1
Desborough 2
Duston 2
Earls Barton 3
East Haddon 2
Elton 1
Finedon 1
Great Oakley 1
Guilsborough 1
Hackleton 1
Hardingstone 5
Harrowden 1
Husbands Bosworth 1
Irthlingborough 6
Kettering 3
Kings Cliffe 1
Kingsthorpe 3
Long Buckby 1
Middleton Cheney 5
Morcott 1
Moulton 2
Northampton 6
Raunds 2
Roade 7
Rockingham 5
Rothwell 4
Rushden 5
Sulgrave 4
Towcester 1
Weedon 1
Walgrave St Peters 4
Wansford 2
Welford 1
Wellingborough 1
Weston Favell 1
Yardley Gobion 2
Total 112

34,279 premises are covered

137 Cabinets

TOTAL

Superfast services now available in parts of this community

Fibre broadband is now available in parts of these communities, but some premises may not achieve superfast speeds

INV-ENT DIGITAL £160,000 funding available to local business

Launched on 24 November, INV-ENT DIGITAL is the latest strand of INV-ENT, the County Council's initiative grant funding programme launched for local SME's (small and medium sized enterprises). £160,000 of funding is available for ambitious SMEs looking to take advantage of enhanced digital capacity/capabilities to grow and transform their business.

This can be achieved by –

• Achieving efficiencies through the use of cloud, new software etc

• Enhancing their on-line presence and capabilities

• Investing in new technologies, software or hardware

• Stimulating digital innovation

• Accessing new revenue streams through e-commerce

• Up-skilling existing staff or securing new staff with digital capabilities

Applications are invited from SME's with a registered office in Northamptonshire. Businesses can apply for up to £10,000 on a match fund basis for investment in IT and digital related activities to support growth. Businesses need to have been trading for a minimum of two years to be eligible.

Applications should be submitted to Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership by 12 noon on 23rd January 2015.

For more information click on the link www.northamptonshireep.co.uk/invent

Women and Broadband: Improve your Digital Skills for Business

The County Council has been awarded £23,000 from the Women and Broadband Challenge Fund run by Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The funding supports the Superfast Northamptonshire Project and aims to promote digital skills and build confidence in women to start up and grow their businesses.

The funding will support women in Northamptonshire with an entrepreneurial flair to take advantage of **free Workshops** designed to build confidence and skills and encourage women to take the first steps in setting up a business.

The events will raise awareness about the advantages and opportunities that superfast broadband and the digital economy can bring to small businesses. The funding will also help extend the reach of the County Council's **Enterprise Hubs** into rural libraries, through the production of a series of promotional films showcasing local women with small businesses who have been through the enterprise hub programme.

For further information about the Workshops including dates and how to book please visit the Events Calendar on the County Councils website www.northamptonshire.gov.uk
The workshops include:

December 19th Effective Websites for New Businesses Corby Library

January 5th Self Employment: Is it for me? Deanshanger Library

January 12th Social Media for New Businesses Deanshanger Library

January 19th Effective Websites for New Businesses Deanshanger Library

February 3rd Self Employment: Is it for me? Rothwell Library

February 10th Social Media for New Businesses Rothwell Library

February 17th Websites for New Businesses Rothwell Library

March 5th Self Employment: Is it for me? Daventry Library

March 12th Social Media for New Businesses Daventry Library

March 19th Effective Websites for New Businesses Daventry Library

You can view the Women Into Business videos, including Maria Glanfield, Yoga Teachers' experience (below) at **www.northamptonshire.gov.uk**

The Curve Group Reaps Benefits of Superfast Broadband

The Curve Group are Talent Management Specialists in the Business and Financial Services sectors, located near Brackley. Access to superfast broadband has enabled the company to go from strength to strength.

The majority of the company's work is recruitment. They rely strongly on the use of social media to source candidates, advertise vacancies and search all media channels, and take talent from the local schools, universities and beyond. Their offices are based on a rural working farm in Hinton In the Hedges, South Northamptonshire, a location which is important to them.

Before superfast broadband was available they received speeds of 5mbps, which often caused their server to crash. They now receive and rely on speeds of 50mbps. This has had a major impact on the company.

Lyndsey Simpson, Co-owner, commented, "The first thing we noticed on moving over to superfast broad band was an uplift in the morale of our staff and over the course of the first few months there was an uplift in productivity. This has had a direct impact on our bottom line. Without this change we would have been out of business".

The impact on the business has enabled the company to expand its premises and take on more staff. The company has become one of the largest employers in and around the Brackley area.

You can view the Curve Groups experience at www.Superfastnorthamptonshire.net on our 'Benefits' page. You can also follow @thecurvegroup on Twitter.
Lyndsey Simpson – Co-Owner, The Curve Group

Christmas good news brings superfast broadband to more rural villages

Superfast Northamptonshire is set to provide superfast broadband to an extra 500 rural homes across four villages.

The County Council has been successful with a bid to the government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Rural Programme and was awarded an extra £208,700 of government funding. This is part of a £20m public funding package secured for the wider Superfast Northamptonshire project overall. Parts of the villages of Loddington, Dingley, Welford and Rockingham are set to benefit from this extra funding. BT is investing an additional £36,000. It is anticipated that work and Superfast broadband will be available in these areas by the end of 2015.

A spokesperson for Loddington Parish Council, said "Superfast broadband will make a big difference to the village of Loddington. Residents are using the internet in their homes on multiple devices for business, homework, leisure etc. We have a surprising number of local enterprises in the village and an increasing number of residents who spend time working from home".

The additional funding from BDUK extends the Council's contract with BT which is well on the way to providing superfast broadband (speeds above 24Mbps) to more than 50,100 premises.

County Council Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Andre Gonzalez de Savage, said "It's great news that additional coverage can be delivered through this first stage of the project, providing more of our rural communities with access to superfast broadband. We are hearing some great news stories from local companies who are transforming their businesses by taking advantage of superfast broadband.

By the end of 2015 we should see around 90 percent of the county's premises able to get fibre broadband as a result of this project and widespread commercial plans. There will be more to come"

For more information about the project, including to see when services may be rolled out in your area, please visit our "When and Where" interactive map and project website at: www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net

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.superfastnorthamptonshi re.net

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

Or by post please contact:
Superfast Northamptonshire Project Team
Northamptonshire County Council
Room 272 County Hall
Northampton, NN1 1DN

Follow us on Twitter at: @SFastNorthants

ISSUE 14 - **DECEMBER 2014**