

NEWSLETTER 8 – MARCH 2013

This is the eighth newsletter produced by Northamptonshire County Council on the *superfast Northamptonshire* initiative. This edition highlights the approval by Cabinet to appoint British Telecom (BT) as the preferred supplier to roll out superfast broadband to the county.

Cabinet Decision

On the 13th February 2013 Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Public Protection) announced through his personal blog that County Council Cabinet have approved the Project Board recommendation to appoint BT as the preferred supplier for the superfast



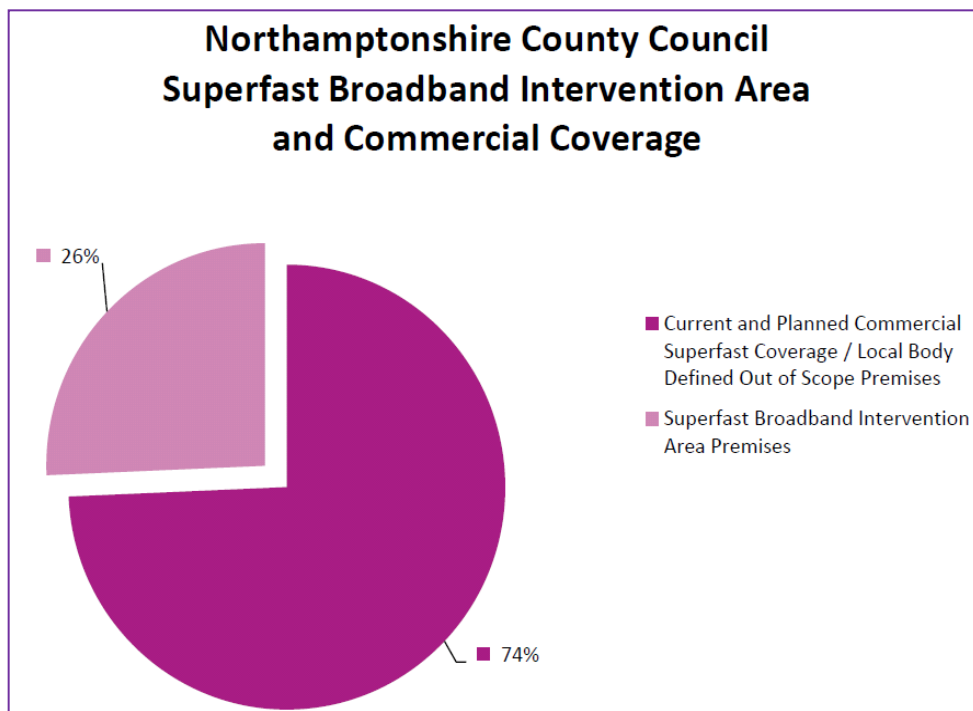
Northamptonshire project

To view the webcast of the Cabinet meeting please click [here](#)

The Challenge

The intervention area for the project was defined following two public consultations with the telecoms market on existing and future commercial deployment plans over the next three years. It is limited to the “white” areas only. This is defined as areas where there are no suppliers currently providing for the commercial deployment of either Basic or Next Generation Access (NGA) infrastructure in an area or where there are no demonstrable plans by suppliers to do so in the next three years.

The Northamptonshire Project aims to provide access to Superfast Broadband to almost 81,100 premises across the county by 2017. This equates to around 26% of the total premises in Northamptonshire. Over 13,100 premises in the county which currently receive less than 2Mbps should have access to Basic Broadband as minimum by 2015.



Invitation to Tender (ITT)

An Invitation to Tender (ITT) was issued in October 2012 using the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Framework. BDUK is a Government-sponsored body. BT submitted its ITT response on 21st December 2012. Fujitsu declined to submit an offer.

Headlines from submission

- ❖ BT will invest an additional £3.2 million capital which, when combined with operational expenditure, provides a total investment by BT which will exceed the £8.16m public sector subsidy.
- ❖ The submission meets core targets which include 90% superfast coverage by September 2015 (when combined with commercial deployment)
- ❖ 75% of these premises passed are expected to have access line speeds of over 50Mbps.
- ❖ 100% basic broadband coverage of at least 2Mbps reached by December 2015.
- ❖ The project will enable over 50,000 premises, including 3,000 businesses, to receive superfast broadband speeds by September 2015



- ❖ At least 8 engineering apprenticeship opportunities will be created and be based in the county
- ❖ The Project will benefit from BT's future technologies and new products as they become available i.e. Fibre on Demand

- ❖ When combined with existing and planned commercial coverage, BT's bid provides for 91% of premises across the county to be connected to NGA infrastructure by September 2015, of which 90% can expect to have access to line speeds of more than 24Mbps.
- ❖ BT Openreach currently has over 60 Retail Service Providers (RSPs) selling or trialling products including recognised brand names like - Talk Talk, Sky, BT Retail and Plusnet

Evaluation Process

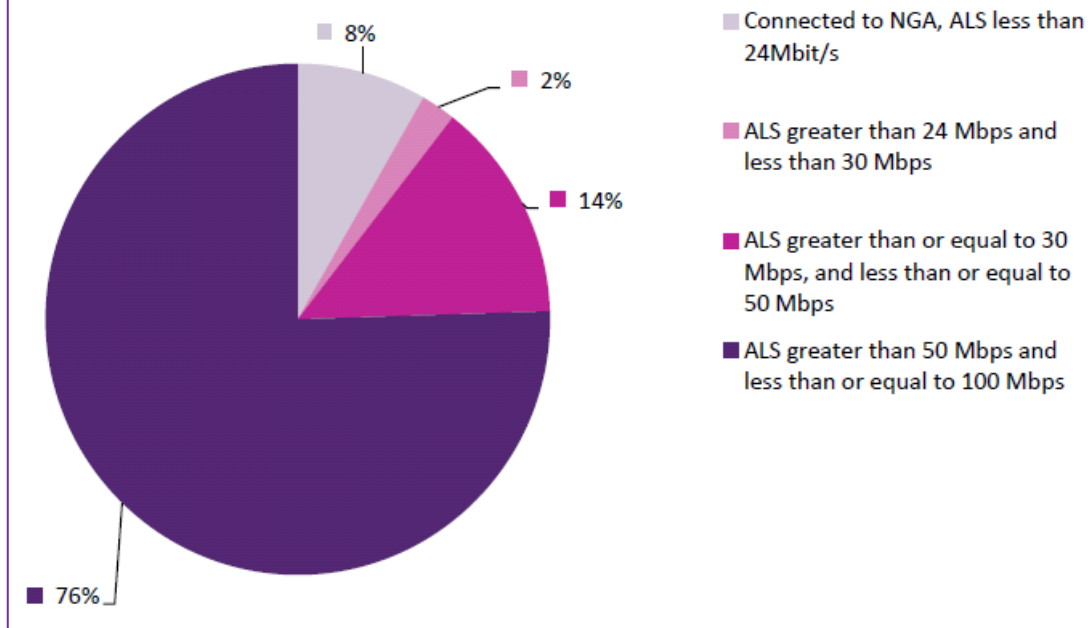
The evaluation methodology and criteria was determined by BDUK. This is to ensure a consistent approach to procurements using the BDUK Framework. It included matters such as value and price, quality, leverage, technical solution and design, scale of coverage and speed, commercial sustainability, the implementation plan and community proposition.

BT's response was evaluated by an officer panel during early January 2013. This included members of the project team, LGSS Finance and external technical advisors from Atkins Global Consultancy. Overall, the evaluation concluded that the submission from BT meets local and national targets- and in some cases exceeds these, such as in terms of expected speeds.

The chart below shows that of the premises that will have NGA access by 2015, around three-quarters are expected to have access line speeds of at least 50Mbps. This will represent a significant, possibly ten-fold or more, uplift in speeds.

A presentation was made to the Project Board on 25th January 2013. The outcome of the Project Board meeting informed the recommendation to Cabinet in February.

Superfast Northamptonshire Estimated Access Line Speed (ALS) for expected Intervention Area coverage by September 2015



Programme

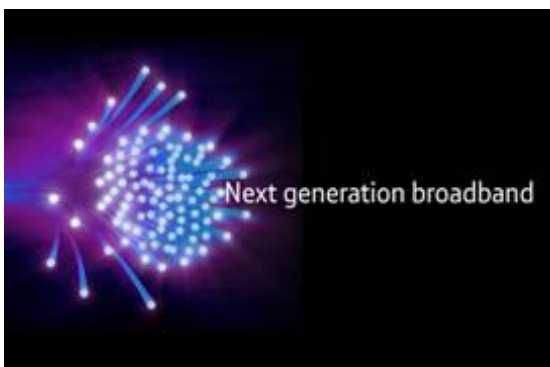
- ❖ Contract signature between the County Council and BT - March 2013
- ❖ Mobilisation – from April 2013
- ❖ Initial surveys, planning and network design work – from April 2013
- ❖ First premises passed (i.e. customers connected) – from January 2014
- ❖ Completion of the initial roll-out of fibre - September 2015

Parish Broadband Surveys

It is not too late to fill out the County Council's Parish survey. These surveys help us to highlight 'hot spots' of demand within the county and provides further information to BT and other suppliers.

The County Council can supply an online link and/or hard copy version which can be distributed to your parish/ village.

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



Parish	No:
Helmdon	136
Welford Exchange	128
Rockingham Exchange	78
Middlemore	54
Aston le Walls	52
Litchborough	39

Nassington	34
Aldwinckle	33
Ashley	32
Hemington	32

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

The closing date for getting your Parish Council survey to the County Council is **31st March 2013**

To request further information regarding the Parish Council surveys please email bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk .

Rural Project Update

We have two local and very active broadband providers in the county.

Tove Valley Broadband

Tove Valley Broadband (TVB) is expecting to deliver superfast broadband services later this spring. They are currently looking at the opportunity of re-using fibre to help achieve this. This offers the simplest route to getting a service up and running. The service will then be distributed by WiFi to Wappenham church tower, the central hub in the network, and onwards to the other villages and properties. Permission to install access points on the church tower has been granted and trials are on-going. This is a community initiative which is run by a not-for-profit company which already has 10 years experience in delivering broadband by this method.

More detail at www.tovevalley.net

Village BroadBand

Village BroadBand Ltd (VBB) provides a fast & resilient Wireless Broadband service for Wollaston and surrounding villages. Using a 5Ghz backbone they transmit from an Internet Connection site in Wellingborough to a receiving site in Strixton where the service is then distributed. Currently they cover the following areas Wollaston, Strixton. Brafield, Denton.

For further information please visit

www.villagebroadband.com



The next newsletter and further information

A further newsletter will be issued following contract-signature and project mobilisation. This will be when the detailed survey work has started to complete, work is on-site, and initial information on the deployment becomes available.

To keep up to date with the latest news regarding the superfast Northamptonshire project please visit the blog site at

www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net



Northamptonshire
County Council