All you need to know about: Superfast Northamptonshire

www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net
About Superfast Northamptonshire

The County Council is leading the Superfast Northamptonshire project, working with Government, local partners and telecoms providers. This is promoting and securing investment in “next generation” broadband infrastructure. It aims to bring access to superfast broadband (speeds above 24Mbps) to local people and businesses across the county. BT is a key partner helping us to deliver the network roll out.

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 all ages in society. It is also critical for business growth and innovation.

Broadband networks are normally built by private sector telecoms companies. Internet Service Providers use these networks to provide broadband services which customers (residents and businesses) can choose to buy.

Telecoms providers will normally deliver broadband only in areas where it is commercially viable for them to do so; this means that some areas would be unlikely ever to benefit. The Superfast Northamptonshire project is focused on securing solutions for these areas. This is where public sector funding is needed to ensure that broadband infrastructure is delivered. It is also raising awareness about the benefits.

Regulations require that public funding in broadband can only be invested in areas where there are no credible commercial plans.
What are our targets?

The County Council has set ambitious targets for the Superfast Northamptonshire project. These are reliant on commercial broadband plans (expected to serve around 230,000 premises), public investment to secure solutions where needed, and the technology and wider capability of the telecoms sector to deliver. Our targets are:

**By the end of 2015, around 90% of all premises in the county should have access to superfast broadband.**

**By the end of 2017, access to superfast broadband should be available countywide.**

This is a major civil engineering project, delivering many hundreds of miles of optical fibre. In the project’s lifetime, public investment could help to bring superfast broadband to as many as 90,000 homes and businesses across the county. Stimulating demand and supporting the digital economy is also a key focus.

Superfast Northamptonshire is coming forward in stages as resources and delivery solutions are secured. This is part of the national Superfast Britain programme led by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).
Almost three quarters of the county should benefit from access to superfast broadband through the private sector’s commercial plans. This involves investment by a number of different telecoms providers including BT, Virgin Media, Independent Fibre Networks Ltd, Gigaclear and WarwickNet amongst others. This private investment should benefit around 230,000 homes and business in the county without the need for public funding.

The County Council will continue to promote Northamptonshire as a great place for the wider telecoms market to invest - the more private sector investment we attract to deliver robust networks, the less public funding required and the quicker people can benefit from faster broadband services. Public funding should not be invested in areas where there are commercial plans.
Public Investment

Public funding is being used to secure superfast broadband solutions for those parts of the county where telecoms providers have no commercial plans and which otherwise would not be served.

Stage One: from 2013 to 2015/16
The County Council is working with BT to deliver stage one of the project. This involves a public investment of £8.4m, from BDUK and the County Council, and £3.2m from BT. Over 50,100 premises will secure access to superfast broadband (download speeds above 24Mbps) by the end of 2015. An additional public investment of £0.6m will see superfast coverage for stage one rise to 53,400 by March 2016.

Tove Valley Broadband is also bringing fibre based broadband to around 600 premises with the support of £117,000 of Rural Community Broadband Fund.

Stage Two: from 2016 to 2017/18
A second contract has been secured with BT. This involves a public investment of over £7.4m from BDUK, the County Council and local partners, and £3m from BT. It will bring superfast broadband to a further 20,450 premises in Northamptonshire.

BT’s network build for stage two should commence in 2016 and is currently planned to roll out until September 2018. BT and the County Council will work together to explore opportunities and identify ways in which these plans could be brought forward to better meet project targets.

The County Council will also be progressing other initiatives, with £3m of public funding available to drive further private sector investment and help us to achieve our full coverage target.
How is it Funded?

£20 million of public funding has been secured, levering in millions of private sector investment, including more than £6.9m from BT. Public funding is made up of:

- **Over £6m** County Council funding
- **Over £10m** BDUK funding
- **£2m** Government Growth Deal funding for the Digital Economy
- **£2m** collectively from the district and borough councils; including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Council</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corby</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>£200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Northamptonshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kettering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>£500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Northamptonshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellingborough</td>
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Mostly supporting Stage 2 from 2016
The Benefits

The internet is essential to modern life. With superfast broadband you can do so much more and faster....it can bring significant benefits for your family at home and for business, supporting business survival rates and enabling stronger productivity and growth. It is also improving the way people can access public services including education and healthcare.

- 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.

Based on MP3 song size of 5MB per file, photo size of 1MB per file. TV show size of 406MB (via On Demand). Movie size of 858MB (via On Demand). Superfast broadband is defined as speeds over 24Mbps.

www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net
Superfast broadband has enabled Evergreen Art Cafe to become one of the top 20 contemporary art galleries in the UK with customers worldwide.

Simon Williams, Evergreen Art Cafe, Daventry
Plans with BT are largely based on Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) technology, with some Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) likely to be provided.

FTTC brings fibre out from the exchange and closer to the community via a new fibre cabinet supporting download speeds up to 80Mbps. The last leg of the service is then delivered over the existing copper network. See ‘The Big Build’ video.

In general the closer a premise is located to its serving cabinet, the higher speed uplift it will get. Speeds experienced can drop off for distances over a kilometre or so. The quality of the copper network may also be a factor.

**Most premises served by FTTC will be able to access superfast broadband services.** For those that don’t benefit from the cabinet upgrade, solutions will continue to be sought through the Superfast Northamptonshire project.

FTTP is much more costly to deliver because it involves taking fibre all the way to a building, but it can support much higher speeds. Other telecoms providers also use and specialise in these and other types of technology. More basic services can be provided by wireless and satellite based services.
The project website provides more information about what is involved in the broadband roll out. BT’s delivery process from planning and survey to going live can take up to 9 months. Other telecoms providers may work to different timescales. Key stages include:

**Ready for service** - Internet Service Providers (ISPs) e.g. Talk Talk, Plusnet etc. are notified that the cabinet is now live. ISPs advertise to their customers. You don’t get an upgrade automatically, you have to contact your internet provider to request and buy an upgrade.

**Network build** - laying or ‘blowing’ new fibre network spine, digging new ducting where necessary, connecting it up, and standing the new cabinet.

**‘Desk top’ modelling and network design** - drawing on the supplier’s information about its existing network and how best this can be extended to maximise coverage for least cost.

**Technical and electrical equipment installations and testing** - installing the electronic equipment in the exchange and in the new fibre cabinet and undertaking light and other tests to ensure there are no faults on the network.

**Planning and Survey** - planning notifications and detailed on site surveys to determine the new cabinet location, taking account of duct condition and capacity, power availability, and other on-site conditions.
How can I find out when I will get it?

An interactive ‘When and Where’ map is available on the project website which enables you to search by postcode for the latest news on expected roll out plans in the area. Plans may be subject to change. Visit www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net

You need to contact your internet service provider to find out if a superfast service is available and how to upgrade.

If you see this sticker on a roadside green cabinet it means this is a new fibre cabinet built through the Superfast Northamptonshire project.

www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net
How do I get a Superfast Broadband Service when it is available?

When superfast broadband is in your area, you can find out more information online about which internet suppliers are providing services and what their offer and costs are. Once you have decided simply contact the supplier to request a service.

Where can I find out more information?

The Superfast Northamptonshire website includes a wealth of information about the project, including the latest news on the roll out, what this involves, FAQs, regular newsletters and information on what the benefits can be. This includes a series of videos where local businesses showcase how faster broadband has benefitted them.

The project website should be the first port of call for any enquiries www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net

You can also follow us on Twitter @SFastNorthants

How can I help?

• Keep yourself up to date with the latest news on what is happening in your area via the project website.

• Help people to help themselves to information about the roll out by directing them to the project website.

• Spread the word about the project and the benefits of superfast broadband.

• Share your experience and tell the project team what difference better broadband speeds have made for you.