



Your Spring update



Our first quarter of 2017 has provided some notable highlights amid an otherwise relatively quiet three months in terms of the number of structures going live and the volume of structures completing their journey through the BT Planning stage. This will carry forward into the number of completions anticipated for next quarter. However, the number of structures entering the planning stage between April and June provides us with confidence that June to September will see a steep upward curve in delivery, with the volume of structures significantly increased, albeit each delivering modest numbers of additional connected premises due to the very rural geographies we are now delivering to.

Overall the programme remains on track to deliver 75,600 superfast premises passed by December 2017, and the rigorous control of programme finances leaves us in very good shape.

Highlights of the winter quarter include completion of superfast broadband delivery at Milton Park. This was endorsed in a visit by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock to Milton Park arranged to celebrate this milestone. Meanwhile we are continuing to complete delivery to the adjacent Harwell, which will mean full superfast broadband availability across the Science Vale Enterprise Zone.

We have also now launched the [Co-Funding Option](#) for those who are in our final four percent of premises without planned superfast coverage. Full details of this

can be found at our [Better Broadband website](#), but in summary it enables communities where the costs are simply prohibitive for the public purse to entirely fund, to contribute to the cost of delivering superfast broadband infrastructure, with the county council funding up to the 'per premise' threshold value of the main programme. This provides the opportunity for a unique collaboration of private and public sector with the local communities in Oxfordshire.

We have now received our Phase 3 proposal from BT which offers additional coverage from contract efficiency savings to date. This proposal is currently under detailed review by the Better Broadband team, to determine if the proposal presents value for money, and is offering coverage in the optimum areas. We expect this will be finalised before the June issue of this newsletter, so please check the Better Broadband website from time to time, or contact the team at broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Business event at Milton Park - Friday 17th March

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme held an event at the Innovation Centre, MEPC Ltd. with the Rt Hon Matt Hancock, Minister of State for Digital and Culture. The event was an open invitation to all businesses at Milton Park, which forms part of the Science Vale UK Enterprise Zone, to celebrate that the whole park now has access to superfast broadband.

The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP said:
“Nine out of 10 homes and businesses can now get superfast broadband, and we’re reaching thousands more every week. I’m delighted we’ve now reached more than 70,000 additional properties in Oxfordshire, providing a tremendous boost to the local economy, and helping make sure that the people of Oxfordshire have the connectivity they need in today’s digital society.”

[Read the full article](#)

What about superfast broadband coverage for the final 4%?

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme is on target to achieve above 95% coverage across Oxfordshire by December 2017. However, we anticipate there to be approximately 9,000 premises* that will not have access to superfast broadband and for which, Oxfordshire County Council has no fully funded solution, due to the very high cost of intervention required.

Current solutions include the Co-Funded Fibre Broadband Partnership and the Better Basic Broadband Subsidy Scheme, which now includes several wireless options.

[Find out more](#)

* Excluding [West Oxfordshire](#)



Fibre broadband arrives in Lower Greenfield

The Better Broadband team is delighted to announce that coverage of superfast fibre broadband has arrived in the Lower Greenfield area, South Oxfordshire.

The expansion builds on the broadband that's already available in the neighbouring village of Christmas Common, giving people more choice of high speed internet services and ensuring that the area has some of the best superfast broadband coverage in the county.

The move has been welcomed by local Howe Hill resident, Peter Richardson, who has been in contact with the team about poor broadband service since the programme's inception back in 2013.

Peter Richardson said:
"It's great news that superfast broadband has arrived to more homes and businesses in Lower Greenfield and surrounding areas, which complements our Connect8 broadband programme. Good connectivity is vital to support a strong economy; it means that businesses can grow and create jobs; people living in rural communities don't miss out. Those living in rural areas often miss out on opportunities to grow their businesses and learn new skills due to poor Internet

connectivity; investments like this are a game changer for rural economies like ours.”

Residents and businesses can follow the progress of the rollout via the [Better Broadband website](#).

People opting for an upgrade will be able to access broadband download speeds of up to 80 megabits per second (Mbps) and uploads of up to 20Mbps*.

Because the network is being rolled out by Openreach – BT’s local network business – people have a wide choice of fibre broadband provider.

** These are the top wholesale speeds available from Openreach to all service providers; speeds offered by service providers may vary.*

Coming to a cabinet near you!

Since our last newsletter, seven cabinets have been delivered to provide superfast broadband in:

- Southam Road area, Banbury
- Station Road area, Lower Heyford
- Wigginton Road area, Wigginton
- Witheridge Hill area, Highmoor
- Bagley Wood Road area, Kennington
- Milton Hill area, Abingdon
- Lower Greenfield area, Christmas Common

We expect three cabinets to go live within the next four weeks in the following parishes:

- Chilton, Vale of White Horse
- Letcombe Bassett, Vale of White Horse
- Middleton Stoney, Cherwell

For further updates about our delivery plans see the [Coverage Map](#) on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website.

Your frequently asked questions

Q. How do I apply for the Better Basic Broadband Subsidy Scheme?

The Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme is supporting the national Universal Service Commitment, also known as the Better Basic Broadband Subsidy Scheme. The scheme offers residents with broadband connections of less than 2Mbps the opportunity to apply for a subsidy towards the installation and setup of a satellite or fixed wireless broadband solution.

In some circumstances, residents can aggregate their subsidies and put the combined funding towards a fixed wireless or fixed line superfast broadband service for the wider community.

[Find out more and how to apply](#)

For the full list of our most frequently asked questions, [visit our FAQs page](#).

Visit us at the [Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website](#) for more information.