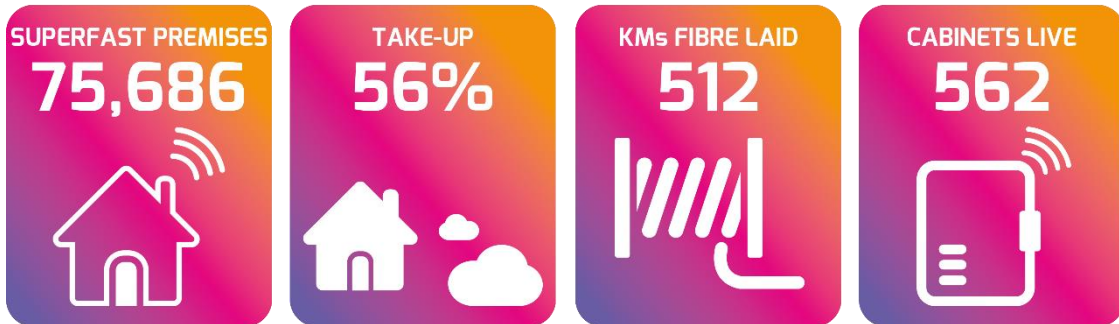## Better Broadband update - August 2018

I am delighted to see that the county council has now received the Grant Funding Agreement from DEFRA for securing superfast broadband coverage aimed at businesses in rural Oxfordshire. This funding is aimed at improving small and medium business productivity and growth and will help to ensure Oxfordshire maintains a balanced economy. The funding is worth £6.3m and the expectation is this will benefit some 1,300 rural businesses and approximately 2,000 residential premises located nearby, mostly with full fibre broadband service capability. The Better Broadband team will be initiating a new procurement in September and updates will follow on this project around Christmas this year.

Meanwhile, as the importance of digital infrastructure gathers pace, it is good to see the county council playing an active coordination role with a working group being set up to establish ways of improving the availability of full fibre infrastructure in the county. Oxfordshire is relatively well placed with about 7% of premises having access to full fibre connectivity compared to a national average of 3.5%, but we still lag a long way behind other European nations in access to future proof communications infrastructure. The working group comprises the county council, all district councils, Oxford city council, and of course OxLEP, which is leading on the Local Industrial Strategy proposal for submission to Government.

Cllr David Bartholomew

BBfO latest statistics

SUPERFAST PREMISES	TAKE-UP	KMs FIBRE LAID	CABINETS LIVE
75,686	56%	512	562

South Chilterns event hosted by John Howell, OBE MP - July 2018

The Better Broadband team held an event in Maidensgrove to celebrate the arrival of ultrafast broadband for residents and businesses in the idyllic, south Chiltern Hills. The delivery has taken four years, but enabled nineteen rural communities and over 400 premises. This part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire rollout encompasses: Britwell Hill, Christmas Common, Cookley Green, Cuxham, Greenfield, Howe Hill, Little Stoke, Maidensgrove, Northend, Park Corner, Pishill with Stonor, Pyrton, Russells Water, Swyncombe, & Nuffield. Better Broadband for Oxfordshire has enabled over 75,000 premises in Oxfordshire to have access to superfast broadband and over 55% of these premises to date have upgraded to fibre broadband.

John Howell, Member of Parliament for Henley said: *"Although it has been a fairly long wait for these small communities to get connected to fast broadband, it is*

great to see the Oxfordshire programme enabling these rural communities to now have good access to what is increasingly a vital everyday service."

Councillor David Bartholomew, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet member for Finance, said: *"A key factor in maximising success is deciding where the programme can deliver access to superfast broadband to the optimum number of premises within a given budget. The fact the partnership has given so many rural locations here in south Oxfordshire this access to superfast broadband shows just how successful the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme has been. Furthermore, the high adoption of fibre broadband services by Oxfordshire residents and businesses has enabled us to go beyond our 95% superfast commitment which means we get a return of funding from Openreach that is reinvested in further coverage - a truly virtuous circle."*

[Read the full press release](#)

Team effort secures FTTP for East Hagbourne!

Full Fibre broadband (FTTP) is now available to East Hagbourne residents after making full use of Openreach and UK Government broadband funding schemes. The 92 premises in East Hagbourne, near Didcot are set to benefit after signing a Community Fibre Partnership with Openreach, which means the cost of installing the new fibre network would have been split between the village and two local businesses. However, there has been no actual cost payable by the community or businesses as using the voucher scheme ensured that all costs were fully recovered. The local school will also benefit with East Hagbourne due to receive FTTP Gigabit-speeds (1000 Mbps) with delivery now less than 12 months away.

The Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme was launched earlier this

communities around them to contribute to the cost of Full Fibre broadband. Businesses can claim up to £3,000 and residents can also benefit from the scheme with a voucher worth £500 as part of a wider project.

Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership programme has made a £2 million grant fund available for communities across the UK to get superfast or ultrafast broadband. Grants up to £30,000 of new fibre infrastructure are available as long as it serves the local Ofsted registered (or equivalent) school or learning establishment.

Read the full press release

Oxfordshire rural businesses in line for ultrafast broadband boost

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has been awarded £6.3m of government grant funding from DEFRA's Rural Broadband Infrastructure Scheme. This funding is aimed at ensuring superfast broadband is available to as many rural businesses as possible in Oxfordshire and is specifically targeting an improvement in business productivity. OCC will soon be issuing an Invitation To Tender (ITT) for this requirement with an expectation of contracting with suppliers by January 2019 and it is anticipated some 1500 rural businesses will be upgraded mostly to full fibre services, with many more adjacent premises connected as an additional benefit.

A great example of the difference this can make is Hundred Hills Vineyard in the Stonor Valley. This business set up by Stephen and Fiona Duckett is producing world class English sparkling wines from traditional pinot noir and chardonnay varieties. Hundred Hills has incorporated the latest technologies to monitor the conditions, with hundreds of sensors amongst the vines collecting data on

temperature, humidity and soil conditions. This is then collated and sent to advisors from Champagne in France who monitor continuously to aid optimum management of the vineyard. This will now be significantly easier to automate with the advent of full fibre broadband delivered by the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme, a partnership between OCC, BDUK, and BT.

Stephen Duckett said: *"Not only is the business increasingly dependent on fast broadband for data collection and analysis, but we are competing in an international market where marketing and sales are highly dependent on ultrafast broadband. Managing an efficient supply chain is also simply not possible without decent digital infrastructure. We are heading for a superb vintage this year and having access now to world class broadband will be a great benefit for improving the productivity of the business".*

Read the full press release

Full-Fibre broadband in all new homes by 2033

Full-fibre broadband should be fitted as standard in all new homes, the government has said. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has produced a new national telecoms strategy, Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review for full-fibre broadband coverage in the UK by 2033. The proposed legislation is also aimed towards private infrastructure investment.

Jeremy Wright, Secretary of State for DCMS referred to the 'radical blueprint' and wanting everyone to benefit from world-class connectivity, which would also encourage commercial investment in full-fibre networks across the UK. He said: *"this radical new blueprint for the future of telecommunications in this country will increase competition and investment in full-fibre broadband, create more*

commercial opportunities and make it easier and cheaper to roll out infrastructure for   5G."

Dana Tobak, Head of Full-Fibre ISP Hyperoptic, considered 'future use' and raised the importance of 'educating' in relation to understanding the difference between technology, the installation process and physical, work element involved. She said: *"it   will   fundamentally   change   lives   as   we   get   used   to   it."*

[Read the full article](#)

ASA Broadband Speed Claims from May 2018

ASA has recently implemented standards whereby broadband advertisements must be based on the download speed available to at least 50% of customers at peak times and must be described in ads as 'average.' These standards came into effect on 23rd May 2018 and apply to residential broadband services. ASA also recommend that speed-checking facilities should be promoted in advertisements wherever   possible,   for   example,   as   provided   on   ISP   websites.

The change came into effect due to research into broadband speed claims, which revealed that consumers were likely to be misled. ASA then undertook a full public consultation, which emphasised that a change to the current standards was supported by evidence and all key stakeholders. The following options were then recommended as the basis for advertised claims:

- median download speed measured at peak-time or over 24 hours or
- a range of download speeds available to the 20th to 80th percentile of users measured at peak time or over 24 hours

Coming to a cabinet near you!

Since our last newsletter, the following eighteen cabinets are now accepting orders:

- B480 Road area, Chiselhampton
- Binsey Lane area, Binsey
- Berrick Salome Village
- Bignell Park Farm, Chesterton
- Braziers Lane area, Ipsden
- Broadwell Road area, Langford
- Charney Road area, Springhill
- Fernham Road area, Shellingford
- Hardwick village
- Highmoor village
- Kennington Road area, Radley
- Moreton village, Thame
- Osney Mead, Oxford
- Pishill Village
- Sprigs Holly Lane area, Chinnor
- Upper Campsfield Road area, Oxford Airport
- Ware Road area, Stanford in the Vale
- Well Place Road area, Ipsden

These ten cabinets covering the following areas will soon be accepting orders:

- Abingdon Road area, Dorchester-on-Thames
- Aldous Drive area, Bloxham
- Brightwell Baldwin Village
- Dunsden Green area, Dunsden
- Elm Road area, Toker Green
- Hyde Road area, West Hanney
- Port Hill area, Nettlebed
- Plough Lane area, Binfield Heath
- Watlington Road area, Garsington

- Wykham Lane area, Banbury

Your Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q: Can I be connected to a cabinet that is closer to me?
A: Unfortunately, it's not as simple as it may sound due to the historic complexity of the cabling that would connect the premise to the fibre broadband cabinet. Also, the cabling doesn't always follow the shortest route or route you may expect, in addition to the fixed DPs (distribution points) that would serve the premise along the network.

Q: A cabinet has been stood at the edge of the village. Why has this not been positioned more centrally?
A: There are many aspects that contribute to the location of standing a fibre broadband cabinet. To share a few:

- there must be access to the mains power
- the fibre will need to be extended to connect to the cabinet
- existing DPs (distribution points) will need to be included

Q: Why don't all of the premises receive improved broadband at the same time?
A: Delivering fibre broadband is a complex engineering task. There could even be different broadband solutions in other areas and some may take longer to plan and deliver to the local community. You may even notice that one location may be served by a smaller or larger cabinet, or more than one fibre broadband cabinet and / or exchange, which could be upgraded at different stages throughout the programme...*continues on FAQ page..*

Q: I am connected to an Exchange Only Line. Why didn't I receive fibre broadband at the same time as the rest of my area?
A: Exchange only lines are connected directly to the telephone exchange, which makes it a more complex procedure to deliver fibre broadband to your premise as there is no connection to the green, fibre broadband cabinet. This will require an engineer to re-arrange the network as there will not be an aggregation point to connect to the fibre cabinet. As a result, it would require the installation of two cabinets which consist of:

1. Primary Connection Point (PCP) – copper cabinet

2. Fibre broadband cabinet (FTTC) – also known as the DSLAM, Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer

Or alternatively an AIO cabinet (All-in-One) may be installed, which would be the two above combined – the PCP (copper) and DSLAM (fibre) into one unit
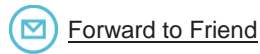
[Read FAQs on BBfO website](#)

Follow progress - BBfO coverage maps

You can see the latest BBfO delivery plans using the coverage map available on our website, which will be updated monthly.

[Find out more](#)

[Visit Better Broadband for Oxfordshire](#)

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