



Hampshire
Superfast Broadband

Community Match Funding Scheme

www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com



Hampshire
County Council

www.hants.gov.uk



Contents

What is Hampshire Superfast Broadband?	1
How does it work?	1
Community Match Funding Scheme	2
Who is eligible?	2
What do you get?	2
Selection criteria	3
Delivery timescale	3
How to apply	4
Find out more	5



What is Hampshire Superfast Broadband?

Hampshire superfast broadband is a £28m project to improve broadband connections to over 97% of homes and businesses across the county by 2019.

The programme is designed to bring superfast services to those in areas that are not commercially viable for BT and Virgin Media to operate in.

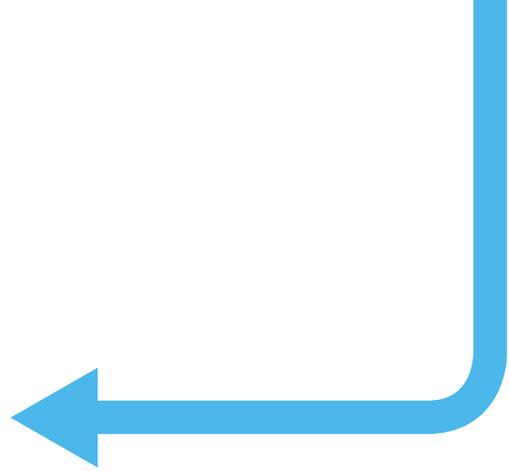


.....
£28m is being invested in Superfast Broadband across Hampshire
.....

How does it work?

The project involves BT Openreach upgrading infrastructure in areas where it has not been possible for them to invest under normal commercial terms.

Typically this involves upgrading green roadside cabinets, but in some cases a full fibre to the home solution may be required.



Properties within 1000m of an upgraded cabinet will be able to access superfast broadband. Once the cabinet has been upgraded, access to the upgraded service is not automatic; residents will need to change their existing broadband plan for a fibre option in order to benefit from faster internet speeds.

.....
Superfast Broadband means a minimum download speed of 24Mbps
.....

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is working with BT Openreach to deliver the superfast programme.

The first wave of Hampshire upgrades was completed in 2016 and successfully connected more than 65,000 premises to superfast services. This brought the overall percentage of premises able to access superfast speeds to 90% .

The next wave aims to bring superfast services to a further 43,000 properties, increasing coverage to 95% by the end of 2017 and more than 97% by the end of 2019.

Community Match Funding Scheme

Although the current superfast broadband programme will reach over 97% of the county, there will still be some areas not included. This is because they are in locations which are difficult to reach or have small populations and are too expensive to upgrade with current funding.

To help communities in this situation, HCC has allocated £1 million of match funding to support communities that want to help themselves access superfast broadband.



What do you get?

Successful applicants will receive funding from HCC for up to 50% of the total cost (ex. VAT) of their broadband solution. There is a maximum contribution from the council of £1,650 per property.



To date, community broadband solutions have ranged from a total cost of £14,000 – £160,000 overall.

Where relevant, communities will be responsible for their own VAT contribution.

The two examples below demonstrate how the match funding works in practice.

Examples

Cost: £25,000 for 50 premises = £500 per premise.

The community will need to raise £250 per property; the council will match-fund the remaining £250 per premise.

Cost: £25,000 for 5 premises = £5,000 per property.

The council will match fund a maximum of £1,650 per premise; the community will need to add the remaining £3,350 per premise.

Who is eligible?

Communities can apply for match funding if:

-  their postcodes are not covered by the existing Hampshire Superfast Broadband programme, or if they are only partially covered
-  there is no existing commercial investment for Superfast in their area

Selection criteria

- The community are not already covered in an existing fibre upgrade plan
- Evidence of significant community interest – e.g. high number of registrations via the Hampshire Superfast Broadband website
- Evidence that the community can raise the necessary funding
- Clearly defined number of premises and postcodes to be covered
- Funding contributions from the council will be limited to 50% of the cost per superfast premise up to a maximum of £1650 per property
- Funding is allocated on a first come, first serve basis

Delivery timescales

HCC will work with BT Openreach and the community to agree an installation date. Where possible we will aim to integrate community match funded projects with the main superfast upgrades in your area.

However, work planned as part of the main programme will need to take priority over match funded solutions and communities should expect it to take at least 12 months for Openreach to install a service after the contract has been signed.

Please note: The scheme has been developed within HCC's existing contract with BT Group. It is only possible for us to provide funding for BT Openreach solutions. At the moment we are not able to work with other suppliers, although this may change in the future.



How to apply

You need to find out if you are eligible for match funding and then apply if you are. To do this follow the 6 easy steps below:

Step 1 – Register your interest with HCC and BT

- Register with HCC at www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/cmfs. You will receive an automated email acknowledging your registration and giving you a case reference number.
- Register with BT Community Fibre Partnership. BT will email a spreadsheet for you to complete with the addresses, telephone numbers and postcodes that you wish to include in the scheme.

Step 2 – Define improvement area

- Send your completed spreadsheet to BT.
- E-mail broadband@hants.gov.uk with a copy of the spreadsheet and your BT Community Fibre Partnership reference number. HCC and BT will work together to verify this list, taking into account any upgrades already planned as part of the existing Superfast Broadband programme.

Please note: it is possible that BT Group will charge up to £2000 for the quotation process.

It is therefore important to assess the financial viability of your community before entering into the quotation phase.



Step 3 – Qualification

Once the list is confirmed, you will need to discuss the feasibility of a solution with HCC and BT Openreach. They will estimate the amount of funding required.

Once HCC and BT are satisfied your community can raise the necessary funding, the process can continue. If we are not satisfied that your community can raise the funds, the process cannot continue any further.

Step 4 – Detailed quotation

BT Community Fibre Partnership will come back to you with a detailed quote, including the cost and a projected timescale for delivery.

Step 5 – Fund raising

HCC will assess the quote and confirm the amount of funding that will be made available as part of the scheme. This will allow us to say how much your community will need to raise. Your community will be responsible for raising this money.

Step 6 – Sign contract and place order

Once your community has raised the funding, you will be required to make a single payment for the full amount and sign a contract with HCC. HCC will then instruct BT to carry out the work under the terms of our existing contract with them. If VAT is applicable, communities will be responsible for their share.



Find Out More



Visit www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com

Follow us on Twitter [@SuperfastHants](https://twitter.com/SuperfastHants)

For more information on BT Community Fibre Partnerships visit www.communityfibre.bt.com/

