

Action points for the Superfast team

1. The take up in South West ward was unusually high in comparison to other areas?
BT confirmed that this is due to delivery via one cabinet in the area where speeds are particularly low serving a new build estate.
2. To check the coverage in Lower Wheelton and Heapey.
The lowest level of data BT have is the Wheelton and Withnell ward, which is shown on the slides.
3. To check how connections in the structures are allocated to companies: is it first come first served?
BT confirmed that allocations for fibre broadband are based on a first come, first served basis. Availability on structures can change in very short timescales and may explain why the resident had an issue with one particular supplier.
4. Information about the European Agricultural, Farming and Rural Development Fund (EAFRD) funding.
The latest information that we have is that the RPA will clarify as soon as possible whether a broadband call can be launched. If a call is to be launched they will work with potential applicants in April and May to establish Strategic Targeting Statements – defining priority white areas for superfast broadband roll out that will deliver growth outcomes. In preparation for this, LCC acknowledge the need to identify geographic 'white' areas for targeting and as such The Superfast Lancashire team are assessing the final 1%, the hardest to reach premises, against rural postcodes and business locations, to construct clear evidence of the demand and economic impact of intervention in these areas
5. To forward:
 - The email address for the inquiry mailbox so can Members send specific examples for further investigation,
superfast@lancashire.gov.uk
 - Speed test website (was it think broadband?)
http://www.thinkbroadband.com/speedtest.html#page_content
 - The new website your team has taken over (which is due to go live in April).
Current Website - <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/corporate/superfast-broadband.aspx>
New website (hopefully live in April) – www.superfastlancashire.com

Questions for BT

1. Please could you give us some more information about the different technologies available to provide Superfast Broadband to white areas?
BT use two types of technology, but the underlying and most important thing is that both deliver Superfast Broadband to the end user premise. Internet Service Providers ultimately choose the speeds that are offered in their packages to end users. The key differentials are that on FTTC the potential speed available reduces the further a premise is from a cabinet, but it is considerably cheaper / faster to deploy than an FTTP solution, meaning more premises are able to receive superfast broadband from the finite funding available.
2. There is mention of Community Fibre Partnerships in the presentation we saw – please could you give us some more information about this?
All the key information about the Programme is held on the website:
<http://www.communityfibre.bt.com/>
3. The presentation states that new premises on Buckshaw Village and the Milestone Meadow area will benefit from the Commercial programme – please could you give a timescale for this to be operational?

With regards to Milestone Meadow, works are on-going and BT suggest that you can follow progress via the Openreach Where and When checker, which currently shows the planned timescales as being up to 5 months. As with any of the deployment works BT do it is planned, so subject to the usual deployment caveats that may prevent the works.

<https://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx>

Queries raised since the meeting

It would be good to highlight the alternate technologies available

I would like to signpost her and the group to the Independent Network Co-operative Association (INCA) – here is a link to their site and the list of current members

<http://www.inca.coop/members>

There will still be just over 400 properties without access to superfast broadband in Chorley Borough. I acknowledge there are areas with your house on top of the hill type scenario. However I do still believe there are big clusters of populations (villages) that are losing out in Chorley in their entirety, such as Rivington and White Coppice where it is regularly raised by many from businesses, farms and residential properties. Also this will effect economic development in areas and hinder a lot of people who can't work from home.

The project team will investigate Rivington and White coppice further and feedback asap. If any specific addresses are available if forwarded to the Superfast Lancashire mailbox we can delve deeper into the speed and coverage issue. superfast@lancashire.gov.uk

A further point was the satellite broadband – reference was made to a subsidy from the government of £350 for areas under 2mbs access. Does it definitely still operate in Lancashire?

Yes it still operates in Lancashire – this link works for me, but not everyone.

www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/corporate/superfast-broadband.

Alternatively go onto www.lancashire.gov.uk and search Better Broadband, it will find the Superfast Lancashire holding page with the Better Broadband scheme information and Application Form.