

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2014



LEAD OFFICER: GRAHAM COOK, SUPERFAST SURREY PROGRAMME MANAGER

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIBRE-BASED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN WAVERLEY

DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY

#### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report is in response to a request from the Surrey County Council (SCC) Local Committee (Waverley) for the Superfast Broadband Programme to provide an update on broadband deployment in Waverley. It is for information only.

The report provides an overview of delivery across the county and will pay specific reference to the current status of deployment in Waverley.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to note the report.**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 In May 2011 the SCC Cabinet gave approval for SCC officers to engage in a competitive tender process to bring superfast broadband infrastructure to those areas in Surrey that would not receive a fibre broadband service through any commercial deployment.
- 1.2 The objectives of the programme were to maintain Surrey's economic competitiveness and stimulate economic growth, enable more flexible working, improve access to educational resources, enable transformation in the way we provided public services through better online access and reduce the digital divide.
- 1.3 SCC sought public sector funding from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) together with European Commission State Aid funding clearance.
- 1.4 The contract to deliver the £35m programme was awarded to BT, with £1.3m of funding secured from BDUK with SCC committing £20m in September 2012.
- 1.5 The Superfast Surrey contract, which focuses on 84,000 premises that had excluded from any current or future commercial rollouts by BT or Virgin Media, is subject to state aid funding regulations which prevents the programme targeting any improvements or deployment within the commercial rollout areas.

The programme is a large complex engineering project that must take account of many aspects including surveying, planning, engagement with different utility companies, Highways and private landowners, as well as the status of existing ducting and other infrastructure. The challenges are further compounded by the extremely tight contractual deadlines for delivery.

Delivering fibre infrastructure to the 84,000 premises entails deploying around 391,800 metres of fibre cable (this is greater than the distance from Banstead to Blackpool), upgrading more than 30 rural telephone exchanges across the county to fibre broadband which otherwise would not be covered by commercial plans and installing more than 620 green street-side cabinets.

- 1.6 The Superfast Surrey deployment area (known as Intervention Area (IA)) has a target to ensure that 98.6% of premises will be covered by the fibre network and 93.9% (78,800 premises) will be able to achieve a minimum download speed of 15Mbps. Initial network planning identified approximately 1200 premises within the IA where there was no fibre solution. These premises were allocated to an infill deployment plan that would require further analysis and review.
- 1.7 SCC was one of the first local authorities to embark on a broadband delivery programme and elected not to engage in a BDUK framework contract. However, BDUK is responsible for overseeing, monitoring and supporting all local authority broadband programmes. It conducted a number of reviews of the Superfast Surrey Programme prior to releasing the full £1.3m of Central Government Funding in 2014.
- 1.8 The contract includes a ‘clawback’ mechanism that will result in a funding stream back to SCC, dependent on the level of take-up within the IA over the full life of the contract (until September 2019).
- 1.9 All of the Borough and District Councils within Surrey will benefit from the extension of the existing Openreach fibre broadband network, with Tandridge (24%), Waverley (17%), Guildford (16%) and Mole Valley (9%) being the main recipients.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 The main deployment phase of the programme has been divided into a number of milestones, scheduled for completion by the end of 2014. Due to the complexity of deployment to premises designated as infill, there is facility to extend this deployment, subject to agreement with the programme team and within the life of the contract.
- 2.2 At the conclusion of Phase 4 (end of June 2014) of the programme, infrastructure serving more than 68,000 premises had been connected to the Openreach fibre network. The programme remains on track to complete the main deployment by the end of 2014.
- 2.3 At the end of June 2014 the Superfast Surrey Programme had delivered fibre infrastructure in more than 20 Waverley Parishes, upgraded 7 rural exchanges to the fibre network and had already provided fibre coverage to more than 9,900 premises. From June until the end of the deployment a further 4,500 premises in Waverley will be covered by the fibre network.

Waverley premises that are already covered by the fibre network are served by

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley).

61 new cabinets from 13 different exchanges (Bramley, Cranleigh, Dunsfold, Elstead, Farnham, Forest Green, Frensham, Godalming, Haslemere, Hascombe, Hindhead, Runfold and Wormley).

The 61 new cabinets are distributed across the following exchanges: Abinger (1), Bramley (10), Cranleigh (6), Dunsfold (3), Elstead (6), Farnham (11), Forest Green (1), Frensham (3), Godalming (6), Headley Down (1), Hindhead (2), Puttenham (1), Runfold (1), Shere (1), Wormley (8).

- 2.4 The programme is on target to achieve 93.9% of premises within the IA able to achieve a minimum download speed of 15Mbps, with the vast majority able to achieve much higher speeds. To date more than three quarters of the premises in Waverley covered by the new fibre network can access speeds in excess of 30Mbps and over 80% have more than 24Mbps.

The contract targets do allow for as much as 6.1% (5,100) of premises to have speeds below 15Mbps. The principal factor determining the distribution of the slower speeds is the length of the telephone line between the cabinet and the end user premises. This has resulted in a slightly higher proportion of slower speeds in the more rural Boroughs and Districts. Waverley currently has between 8 and 9% of premises with speeds below 15Mbps.

Currently Openreach are undertaking a review of all the sub 15 Mbps premises within the IA to identify what, if any, improvements can be made within the constraints of cost and technical feasibility. Superfast Surrey will be reviewing the costed options and determining where additional deployment can be undertaken. Once both the results of the analysis are known and the programme team have determined where improvements can be undertaken within the available budget, the relevant parish councils will be updated and will be requested that they convey this information to their communities.

Superfast Surrey has already conducted a separate review of the 1200 infill deployment premises with Openreach and identified a number of premises that are able to receive a fibre based service. This has reduced the infill number to approximately 600 premises (0.7% of the intervention area).

- 2.5 The Superfast Surrey Programme will have completed the main deployment phase by the end of 2014, providing fibre coverage to over 83,000 homes and businesses. Waverley will have had fibre coverage provided to more than 14,000 premises, the vast majority of which will have access to high-speed broadband.
- 2.6 Fibre broadband technology is continuing to evolve, with alternative products and solutions being developed to tackle the most difficult to reach and economically challenging areas. Although these potential solutions will not be available during the main deployment phase of the Superfast Surrey programme, by investing in extending the fibre network as far as possible across the county, the programme is ensuring that as many Surrey homes and businesses as possible have the potential to access new technologies and services as they do become available.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 The report is for information only.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley).

**4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Throughout the Superfast Surrey Programme there has been proactive engagement with local communities, including briefings and meetings with most Parish Councils in Waverley. There is also on-going dialogue with individual residents and businesses providing updates on progress and delivery timeframes.
- 4.2 Demand Stimulation activities have included direct mail to all addresses in the IA, comprehensive social media campaigns, county show attendance, cabinet light up and project milestone activities, case studies, business video series, business wi-fi mailing, cabinet stickers, newsletters, parish and business magazine articles and website.

**5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The rollout of fibre broadband throughout Surrey will have a hugely positive impact on economic and social development – an economic benefit calculated at £30m (World Bank Estimate – based on GDP) every year.

**6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 The Superfast Surrey Programme is seeking to extend the fibre network to as many homes and business as possible throughout the county to reduce the digital divide and enable all sections of society to take advantage of the benefits of faster broadband.

**7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 No specific implications beyond those described in the report.

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

- 8.1 None.

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 9.1 The Committee is invited to note the information contained in the report.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 10.1 Details of steps to be taken in completing the programme are described in the report.

**Contact Officer:**

Graham Cook, Superfast Surrey Programme Manager, 07816 060457

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/waverley).

**Consulted:** Mr Peter Martin, Deputy Leader

**Annexes:** None

**Sources/background papers:** All information has been extrapolated from the Superfast Surrey Programme Contract and Contractual Milestone Reports. These documents are commercially sensitive and cannot be provided.

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