



Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board
26th January 2016

Update on the Superfast Surrey Programme

Purpose of the report: To provide an update to the Board on the delivery of fibre broadband infrastructure as part of the Superfast Surrey Programme.

Introduction:

1. In 2012 Surrey County Council (SCC) signed a contract with BT to deliver fibre broadband infrastructure to those premises in Surrey that were determined not to be benefitting from commercial rollouts.
2. SCC obtained the necessary legal authority to intervene in specific areas of the county where there was market failure in the provision of Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband services. These locations were included in Surrey's Intervention Area (IA).

Update on deployment and coverage

1. All deployment in the main phase of the Superfast Surrey Broadband programme has now finished with more than 86,000 now covered by the fibre broadband network as part of the the Superfast Surrey Programme.
2. The final months of the programme have concentrated on delivery of fibre infrastructure to many of the harder to reach and more technically challenging locations.
3. The Superfast Surrey Programme, combined with the commercial rollouts, is now enabling approximately 96% of all Surrey residents to access fibre download speeds of 15mbps or above. This is anticipated to increase to 97% by 2018 due to additional commercial deployment plans. Premises that are still unable to obtain a Next Generation Access (NGA) download speed of 15Mbps or more are either not connected to fibre infrastructure or are connected but are on long telephone lines.
4. The take-up of fibre broadband services within the Intervention Area is approaching 33%. This take-up level is amongst the highest in the country and will trigger claw-back funding that can be used for further broadband deployment. Clawback is a mechanism within the contract

with BT that generates 'income' for the Superfast Surrey Programme when the level of take-up exceeds 20%.

5. Prior to taking any decisions on further broadband infrastructure deployment, in April 2015 SCC embarked on an Open Market Review (OMR) to understand the broadband landscape of Surrey. The first stage of the OMR process required SCC to request coverage and future deployment information from broadband infrastructure providers. The information received from broadband providers has been analysed by SCC to determine the extent of NGA broadband availability throughout Surrey, where premises can obtain a minimum of 15 Mbps download speeds. Before progressing to the next stage of the OMR, SCC must await a Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) announcement on the European Commission State Aid Funding re-notification. BDUK have now advised that this is not anticipated until the Spring of 2016. SCC must comply with the conditions imposed by the European Commission when incorporating any additional premises within Surrey's IA. In the meantime, SCC will be working with BT to identify if there are any further viable solutions in our existing Intervention Area where deployment could commence while awaiting the outcome of the State Aid renotification.
6. In December 2015, Superfast Surrey announced a subsidised basic broadband scheme which is funded and managed by BDUK. The scheme forms part of a Government commitment to give access to download speeds of at least 2Mbps to every premise and provides the option of a subsidised basic broadband installation for eligible premises. Information regarding this scheme is available on the Superfast Surrey website.

Recommendations:

1. For the Board to note the current status of the Superfast Surrey Programme.

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