

Keeping you up to speed with Superfast Essex

www.superfastessex.org

Why am I receiving this?

Welcome to the third of our regular updates regarding the Superfast Essex programme. You are receiving this because you are an elected Council member, Essex MP, or a business or a resident who has signed up to be kept informed about the programme being rolled out across the county. These updates will be published about every quarter or so to give you an overview of what has been happening on the programme. They will also be added to our website, which we are keeping updated with the latest information.

The Superfast Essex story so far...

In August 2013 Essex County Council (ECC) signed a contract with BT to improve broadband coverage across greater Essex and this became the Superfast Essex programme. It is part of a national government-led programme to improve broadband connectivity across the UK, Superfast Britain, which the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is coordinating through a team called Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).

BDUK, ECC and BT are jointly investing £24.6m into the current phase of the Superfast Essex programme. As part of the programme, the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) contract uses public subsidy to complement and accelerate the broadband offering by commercial operators.

The aim is to improve broadband coverage so that around 87 per cent of Essex has access to superfast fibre broadband by the end of 2016, as a result of this programme together with the commercial rollout. We want to ensure that a minimum of 2Mbps download speed is available across Essex, and that the fibre network - with the potential to provide superfast speeds of 24Mbps and above - is extended as much as possible with the available funding.

We are now planning Phase 2, aiming to extend superfast coverage in Essex up to 95% by the end of 2017.



What's new?

Phase 2 next steps: Thank you to all of you who responded to our Phase 2 State Aid Public Consultation last month. We received 287 responses in total - a significant increase on the handful received during our consultation for the current programme. Due to the volume of comments received we will not be responding to them individually, instead we have identified some key themes and provided some feedback to these on the ['Where, when and how' page](#) of our website. Here you will also be able to view the finalised maps confirming the areas eligible for investment in Phase 2. We will now work to define the Phase 2 fibre rollout within this eligibility boundary as we begin the procurement of a broadband supplier(s) to work with us on Phase 2 in two stages - for the Extension and Rural Challenge projects. You can read more about this in our [press release](#) on our website. We expect the rollout plans for both projects to be ready for publication in March and June next year respectively, with work expected to start later in the year.

Delivery update: Work for the current programme remains on track with more fibre cabinets being made live every week across Essex. So far 96 cabinets are live and 13,000 premises fibre-enabled. Our [Postcode Checker](#) will continue to be updated to reflect the latest progress in delivery. Use it to find out if there has been any news for your area!

National publicity: Look out during the Christmas period for superfast broadband being advertised on your TV screens! The Government is going to be promoting the work being carried out to improve broadband as part of the national Superfast Britain programme across the UK to raise awareness that work is happening and remind members of the public what they need to do to access it once it's available. View the advert [here](#). Essex residents and businesses should continue using the [Superfast Essex website](#) to find out the latest local information.

Superfast Facts

- Countdown to Christmas with [@SuperfastEssex](#) and follow our #SEAdvent daily facts on Twitter.
- More than 9,000 people have signed up to receive our Programme Update newsletter via our [Make the Connection survey](#). Keep encouraging your neighbours to register their demand for superfast broadband through our survey too and they'll have the option to receive it as well.
- Fibre optic cables contain up to 1,000 individual fibres of silica glass, and have approximately the same thickness as a human hair - but just one of these fibres is capable of supplying all the broadband devices in your home at superfast speeds.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Superfast Essex Team!

This Programme Update was produced by the Superfast Essex Team at Essex County Council
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