



May 2016 update

As of 19 May 2016...
52,561
homes and businesses
have been fibre
enabled thanks to
Connecting Shropshire.

Make the Switch!
To discover what fibre can do for you, you must opt-in by contacting your ISP

A roundup of what's been going on in the programme

Over 50,000 premises now able to connect to fibre broadband

To date, Connecting Shropshire has upgraded over 270 cabinets with fibre broadband which means that over 52,000 homes and businesses can now make the switch to faster fibre broadband. We passed the 50,000 premises milestone in February and here is a link to the story if you want to read more about it: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2016/02/boost-for-thousands-more-homes-and-businesses-as-connecting-shropshire-passes-major-milestone/>

To make the switch to fibre broadband, people will need to contact their chosen internet service provider to upgrade their broadband package, the broadband speeds won't increase automatically.

The fibre network that we've built is open to all internet service providers, so we recommend that people shop around to get the best deal for them by using a comparison website, such as: <https://www.cable.co.uk/connectingshropshire/>

Case Study: Hundred House Hotel, Norton



The Hundred House Hotel basking in the sun

We recently visited the Hundred House Hotel in Norton (<http://www.hundredhouse.co.uk/>) to talk to co-owner David Phillips, who has overseen the hotel's upgrade from standard to fibre broadband.

David said: "We upgraded to fibre broadband as soon as it became available to us mid-February and we have already noticed improvements in our connectivity. Prior to upgrading, we were getting download speeds ranging from 2-4mbps, but now we're regularly getting download speeds of 70mbps"

Asked if upgrading to fibre broadband is something he'd recommend, David replied: "It can only be a good thing, so for me it was an obvious decision. It's not costing us any more than standard broadband and we're getting a much better service for our money. Add this to the opportunity fibre broadband

brings, it's a no-brainer!" To read the full case study, go to: <http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/2016/04/case-study-hundred-house-hotel-norton/>

Making the switch to fibre broadband

It's important for Connecting Shropshire to encourage people to make the switch to fibre broadband because the more people that do, the better connected the county is meaning people are better able to participate fully in modern life. It's also beneficial because, for every percent above 20%, Shropshire Council will receive a revenue contribution, regardless of the ISP you sign-up with, through the existing contract mechanism (known as clawback). This could amount to millions of pounds during the lifetime of the project (30% take-up would produce an extra £2.2m) and is the reason why we send out carefully targeted marketing information to our homes and businesses.

If you're in an area that already has access to fibre broadband, you may have received a card like this through your letterbox to advise you on why and how to upgrade:

What's not to love about faster broadband?

For the home

Open a new world of entertainment

- Download faster
- Stream on multiple devices
- Watch on demand TV
- Superior online gaming
- Stay connected to family

For business

Better business performance

- Faster uploads
- Cloud storage and apps
- IP telephony
- Agile working
- Web conferencing

Step 1: **Check availability** using our online checker at:
www.connectingshropshire.co.uk/when-and-where

Step 2: **Find the best deal** by using a comparison website, such as:
www.cable.co.uk/connectingshropshire

Step 3: **Place an order** with your chosen internet service provider to make the switch to fibre broadband.

"It's not just about a faster internet experience or doing one thing quicker, it's about everyone being able to do their own thing online, all at the same time. You can work or play - smarter, faster, better - whether from your smartphone, TV, tablet or computer."



Universal Service Obligation

In November 2015, the Government set out its intention to introduce a broadband universal service obligation (USO) from 2020. This would give everyone a right to a decent broadband connection on request. The Government proposes introducing this universal service obligation in recognition of the increasingly important role broadband plays in people's lives.

As a first step towards delivering a broadband USO, the government issued a consultation, which ran from 23 March 2016 to 18 April 2016. Connecting Shropshire responded to the consultation and the government's response to the consultation together with a summary of the responses received is now available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/broadband-universal-service-obligation>

As a next step, Ofcom is seeking views from consumers and industry to inform their analysis of the options for designing and implementing the broadband USO. If you'd like to respond to the consultation, the deadline is 23 June and for more information, see:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/broadband-USO-CFI/>

Recent press coverage

There have been a number of misleading articles about broadband delivery in the national and local press recently. In response to an article in the Daily Telegraph on Friday 6 May, the Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy Ed Vaizey, wrote:

“The Government commitment for everyone in the UK to have access to fast broadband remains firmly in place (‘Government abandons broadband plans’, 6 May). Nothing has been abandoned. We are giving every home and business in the UK the legal right to request fast broadband, helping make sure no communities are left behind.

Nine out of 10 UK homes and businesses can already get superfast speeds - four million of whom would have missed out if not for our £1.7bn investment through the Superfast Broadband programme. By December 2017 that will rise to 95 per cent of the UK. Reaching the hardest to reach part of the UK is of course more expensive, so it makes sense for it to be provided on request to those who want it - in the same way that telephone lines are provided.”

Mobile phone coverage

Shropshire MPs and Shropshire Council continue to press the mobile network operators to improve their network coverage in the county. In April, following the latest meeting to discuss the issue, Cllr. Steve Charmley said “Today’s meeting was very positive and the mobile network operators now appear to be more willing to work with us to improve the situation for Shropshire businesses and residents than previously. Rather than talking about what they might do in the future, they’re now actually taking some action. We will continue to work with Ofcom to ensure the providers are delivering what they claim.

Go to Ofcom’s mobile coverage checker (which now includes an indication of broadband speed availability too) to find out which operator provides the best coverage where you live/work (example below), see:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-coverage>.





Mobile coverage and fixed broadband checker

Check predicted mobile coverage and fixed broadband speed and availability by postcode

Search by postcode
TF12 5bx

Mobile coverage	Broadband in TF12 5BX
<p>Select network: EE</p> <p>Select signal type: Voice Calls, 3G Data, 4G Data</p> <p>Select location: Outdoor, Indoor</p> <p>4G Data Key Signal in most buildings is likely to be sufficient to use 4G data services reliably Signal in most buildings is unlikely to be sufficient to use 4G data services reliably</p>	<p>Standard Broadband</p> <p>Average speed: 17 Mbps</p> <p>Superfast Broadband</p> <p>Average speed: 80 Mbps</p> <p>Availability: Moderate</p> <p>© 2016 Europa Technologies Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016 © OpenStreetMap contributors</p>

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