

Phase 1 Superfast Broadband Project update – March 2015

This is the sixth quarterly update where you can find out information about the progress of our 'big build' to roll out fibre broadband across South Gloucestershire.

The council's 'Phase 1' Superfast Broadband Project has made excellent progress across South Gloucestershire and is now complete! All of the cabinets in our local communities that were due to be upgraded to fibre by the project are live and ready for service, meaning thousands of residents and businesses are now able to enjoy all the benefits of a superfast fibre broadband connection.

Our original target at the start of the Phase 1 Superfast Broadband Project was to pass 15,000 homes and businesses across South Gloucestershire. In September 2014, we extended our target to reach 16,000 premises by March 2015. We have exceeded this target and have now passed 17,000 homes, which is absolutely fantastic news! This means that 2,000 more homes and businesses across South Gloucestershire have benefitted from the project, with the same amount of funding.

Our 'Total Homes Passed' (THP) counter and project pie chart have been updated to reflect the completion of the Phase 1 project, and our list of live cabinets has also been updated.

Further good news is that, as well as exceeding our targets and completing the Phase 1 rollout on time, due to savings made during the project we will be able to push the fibre coverage even further across South Gloucestershire. More information will be available in our next quarterly update.

Phase 2 Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) update

The Phase 1 Superfast Broadband Project is now complete, and the cabinets that were due to be upgraded as part of the Phase 1 project are finished. Providing superfast broadband remains a key priority for South Gloucestershire Council, and we have already invested £2million into this complex infrastructure project.

In June 2013, the Treasury confirmed that a further £250million of additional funding will be available nationally to increase superfast broadband coverage under the Phase 2 Superfast Extension Programme (SEP). The investment will ensure that superfast broadband gets to 95% of homes and businesses in the UK by December 2017.

The Government has recently made the funding available to Local Authorities and has confirmed that the SEP fund will need to be match-funded locally. South Gloucestershire Council have identified £500,000 from our Capital Programme to use as match-funding for the SEP, bringing the total investment for the Phase 2 project to £1million.

The Phase 2 project will enable us to push the existing broadband coverage even further across South Gloucestershire, and into those harder-to-reach communities which did not benefit from the Phase 1 upgrades. The programme will help to ensure that those homes and businesses in some of the hardest-to-reach areas get access

to superfast broadband, building economic prosperity and encouraging more social inclusion up and down the country.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/14-million-more-premises-to-get-superfast-broadband-after-250-million-capital-investment>

All of the latest information about broadband in South Gloucestershire can be found on our web pages at www.southglos.gov.uk/broadband or you can follow us on Twitter: @sglosCouncil

Key figures

- We have now reached more than 17,000 premises with our new fibre network across South Gloucestershire.
- We have installed and switched on 85 new fibre-enabled cabinets.
- We have laid over 140km of fibre cable as part of the superfast broadband rollout across South Gloucestershire.
- Of the 17,000 premises passed, up to 14,000 will be able to access speeds of more than 24Mbps, with the remaining 3,000 premises having access to improved broadband speeds up to 24Mbps.
- When combined with BT's commercial roll-out, it means that more than 105,000 households and businesses in South Gloucestershire can now get fibre broadband.
- 100% of the Phase 1 Superfast Broadband Project is now complete - on time, under budget and with even more premises covered.