

Progress update: Connecting Devon and Somerset

Latest announcement: CDS has confirmed the next 25 communities who are now ready to connect to the high-speed fibre broadband infrastructure being delivered by the £94 million programme to bring superfast broadband to rural areas. This means that businesses and residents in these areas are able to upgrade their broadband to a superfast package.

The latest locations in Devon include parts of Ashford (near Barnstaple), Braunton, Burlescombe, Chudleigh, Heanton Punchardon, Ilsington, Landkey, Morteohoe, North Tawton, Swimbridge, Tedburn St Mary, and Whitestone.

The latest areas across Somerset to benefit from the £94 million programme's roll-out plans include parts of: Cannington, Chilton Trinity, Milverton, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Otterhampton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton Barrington, Dowlish Wake, Horton, and Kingstone in South Somerset.

Additionally, further communities will be connected by October 2014 (subject to engineering considerations). In Devon these include: Combe Martin, Denbury and Torbryan, Dunkeswell, Great Torrington, Ilfracombe, Ipplepen, Kingsbridge, Stokenham, West Alvington, West Down and Woolfardisworthy.

In Somerset these include: Ashill, Beercrocombe, Catcott, Chilton Polden, Edington Fivehead and Milborne Port

This means that a total of 56 communities in Devon and Somerset now have access as the programme continues to roll-out, bringing new technology and faster speeds.

Superfast Extension Fund (SEP): Following the announcement from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) made on February 17th 2014 of the additional £22.75 million funding for the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme, the application was submitted **before deadline on Monday 30th June**. CDS has been seeking assistance from District Councils across the programme area and have succeeded in securing 'agreements in principle' from numerous partners. We have been able to secure match funding from a range of sources, including local authority contributions, Heart of the South West LEP and EU Structural Investment Funds. If the bid is successful, an open procurement process will take place later in the year to extend superfast connections to 95% of homes and businesses.

Ready for Service map: As always when we make these announcements, we will be updating the Ready for Service map on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website to reflect where fibre broadband is available as each cabinet gets connected. Unlike the final coverage map, this map is accurate at postcode level. The map does not indicate expected speeds as this is dependant on the distance between the premise and the relevant cabinet.

We are making changes to our website, including new maps that set out the programme coverage in greater detail. We are planning for these to go live in mid July.

Parish Communications: We will shortly be sending out letters to all the parishes that have recently been connected to let them know the service is available. In addition, we will be asking our parishes if they will be willing to help in distributing fliers to households and businesses and any relevant premises like community halls, village shops and pubs.

Looking ahead: Business and Community Engagement: The programme appointed the Cosmic Peninsula Consortium who have begun to deliver the Get up to Speed programme of business and community engagement across Devon and Somerset. So far, the team have delivered bespoke sessions for farmers and business organisations, visited parishes and taken briefing sessions to Barclays Bank to help them advise rural businesses. Later in the year, the programme will be undertaking a three event

roadshow around Taunton Deane. In September, the team will be joining forces with the Met Office who will be talking about their digital strategy for working with small rural businesses.

How you can help us: Please continue to support the programme by encouraging residents and businesses in areas that are live to take up a superfast broadband service and drive take-up across the programme area.

When an area becomes ready for service, improvements in broadband speeds are not automatic. Businesses and residents will need to purchase a superfast broadband package from their internet service provider. In many areas that are live, the service is being offered by a range of different providers, so please encourage constituents to shop around and get the best deal.

We are also keen to develop case studies of businesses, home workers and families who are taking up the new service. If you hear of anyone in your area who would make a good case study and would be willing to take part, please put them in touch with Julie Everett (see below).

For further information please contact Julie Everett: Julie@coastmarcoms.co.uk or visit www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk

Appendix – Full list of areas live and next in line across Devon and Somerset

Alongside the latest areas to go live set out in this briefing, many premises in the parishes below will already be able to connect to superfast broadband infrastructure. A comprehensive postcode list is available on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website.

Belstone, Bishop's Hull, Bishop's Lydeard, Bradford-on-Tone, Combe Florey, Cotford St Luke, Crediton, Creech St Michael, Dunchideock, Exminster, Hatherleigh, Hemyock, Holsworthy, Newton St Cyres, Nynhead, Okehampton, Okehampton Hamlets, Petrockstow, Ruishton, Sandford, Shillingford St George, South Tawton, Sticklepath, Stoke St Gregory, Thurloxton, Wellington, West Buckland, West Monkton, Kennford, Henlade and North Curry.

The programme has also been able to provide additional coverage around the fringes of Barnstaple, Bideford, Totnes, Newton Abbot, Honiton, Ilminster, Taunton and Bridgewater.

In total, CDS has announced a further 17 communities to be connected by October 2014 (subject to engineering considerations).

In Devon these are: Combe Martin Denbury and Torbryan, Dunkeswell, Great Torrington, Ilfracombe Ipplepen, Kingsbridge, Stokenham, West Alvington, and West Down

In Somerset these are: Barrington, Cannington, Chilton Trinity, Dowlish Wake, Horton, Kingstone, Milverton, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Otterhampton, Pawlett, Puriton and Spaxton