

NEWSLETTER 6 – OCTOBER 2012

This is the sixth newsletter produced by Northamptonshire County Council on the *superfast Northamptonshire* initiative. This edition covers the scope of the Project and progress towards procuring a supplier to work with us to deploy superfast broadband infrastructure across the county.

What is the superfast Northamptonshire Project?

The Project is driving forward the delivery of Superfast Broadband infrastructure to those parts of the county where it is not viable or sustainable for the commercial market to deliver. These are predominantly, but not exclusively, the rural areas of Northamptonshire. **Superfast Broadband will deliver minimum speeds of 24Mbps.**

The County Council has committed £4.08m to match the £4.08m it has secured from Government via Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) towards the Project. A private sector supplier is currently being procured by the County Council to co-invest and deploy Superfast Broadband infrastructure.

A Project Board, chaired by the County Council and involving local stakeholders, has been set up to oversee the Project. This includes representatives from the district and borough councils, the business community, further and higher education institutions, the Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils (providing a key link to local communities) and BDUK.

Northamptonshire Loves
**Superfast
Broadband**



Superfast fibre Broadband across
all of Northamptonshire by 2017

Where will the superfast Northamptonshire Project Deliver Improvements?

The County Council has carried out two public consultations with the market in 2012 to determine where broadband infrastructure suppliers are currently operating basic and superfast networks and where they are planning to do so in the next 3 years. Areas where there is no current or planned provision are known as 'white' areas. It is in these areas where public funding can legitimately be invested in partnership with private sector finance to deliver broadband infrastructure.



The map on the back page of this Newsletter shows the extent of the superfast Northamptonshire intervention area (the 'white' areas). There are 81,099 premises which fall 'in-scope' of this Project.

Geographical Area	Total Premises	Superfast In-Scope premises
Daventry	34,743	19,987
South Northants	38,158	26,856
Northampton	96,838	6,428
Wellingborough	35,212	3,760
Kettering	43,536	6,751
Corby	28,284	2,896
East Northants	39,077	14,421
Total	315,848	81,099

For more detailed information on where these "white" in scope post codes are please [click here](#) for our interactive mapping service.

(Please click "Add Feature/ Place then "Community and Living" to see the superfast broadband link)



The Project Board has agreed to adopt a different approach to securing Superfast Broadband provision in the town centre 'white areas' of Northampton, Corby, Kettering, and Wellingborough and the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone. It is believed that these highly populated and business focused areas should provide a commercial opportunity for the market to deliver without the need for public sector funding intervention.

This approach ensures that limited public funds are directed to best effect. The County Council will work with the respective district and borough councils and local business interests in these areas over the coming months to develop a strategy and business case to promote the town centres and Enterprise Zone to the market as an investment opportunity.



What Benefits will Superfast Broadband Bring?

Access to Superfast Broadband will enable local businesses and people who live, work and spend leisure time in the county to transform their businesses and how they live.

Access to superfast broadband speeds is becoming increasingly important as more activity takes place via the internet and the growing digital economy. This includes opportunities to increase business productivity and drive efficiencies, providing access to new domestic and international markets and supply chains and enabling businesses to innovate.

It is also capable of providing significant benefits for local people, providing easier access to public services which can be delivered at a lower cost to the tax payer.

It enables the benefits of tele-health and on-line 'virtual' learning and education to become more widespread, including benefits to people with



disabilities or limited access to transport; it provides more people with the flexibility to work from home and for some to access employment opportunities which would otherwise not be possible; it opens up social networking and enables people to shop, game and browse on-line more quickly and with reliability of service; and it provides environmental benefits through 'smart' technologies providing carbon efficiencies in transport (and reducing the need to travel), energy and construction.

What are the superfast Northamptonshire Targets?

Our targets are:

- By March 2014 at least 2,000 business premises within the intervention area will have access to Superfast Broadband.
- By March 2015 at least nine out of ten premises will have access to Superfast Broadband and all premises should have minimum access line speeds of 2Mbps;
- By March 2017 all premises in the county should have access to a 'next generation' broadband network capable of supporting access line speeds of at least 30Mbps.

These headline targets will be tested through the procurement process.

Current public sector funding commitments of £8.16m are expected to deliver the targets to 2015 i.e. at least 90% superfast coverage. This target takes account of existing and planned commercial deployment over the next 3 years which should extend coverage of Superfast Broadband to around 75% of premises in the county by 2015. The additional coverage to 90% comprises over 49,500 of the 81,099 premises in the superfast Northamptonshire intervention area.

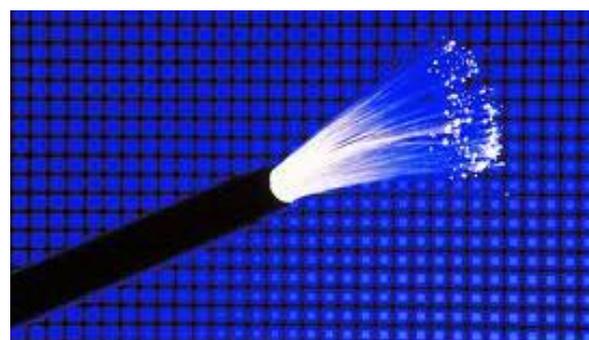
The County Council will be pursuing a targeted funding strategy to secure additional funding towards the funding gap and achieving full superfast coverage by 2017.



How is an Industry Partner to be Chosen to Support Infrastructure Deployment?

BDUK have put in place a procurement Framework for the delivery of rural broadband infrastructure across England and Wales. This was established through a competitive process compliant with European Union procurement regulations. Two suppliers succeeded in the competition to be appointed to the Framework, namely BT and Fujitsu. Many local authorities across the UK are now lining up to run their own 'mini competitions' under the Framework. Northamptonshire is the 5th authority nationally to secure approval to do so.

The County Council launched an Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the superfast Northamptonshire Project on 5th October 2012.



The Framework suppliers will set out their proposals and technical solutions for the delivery of Superfast Broadband in the county and their implementation plans and financial models to achieve this.

The Cabinet will decide on the preferred supplier at its meeting in February 2013 following the ITT and bid evaluation process and is expected to secure the contract in March 2013.

The first task for the supplier will be the completion of detailed surveys, planning and design before physical deployment starts. The first Superfast Broadband services should 'go live' within 8 months of the Project getting underway.

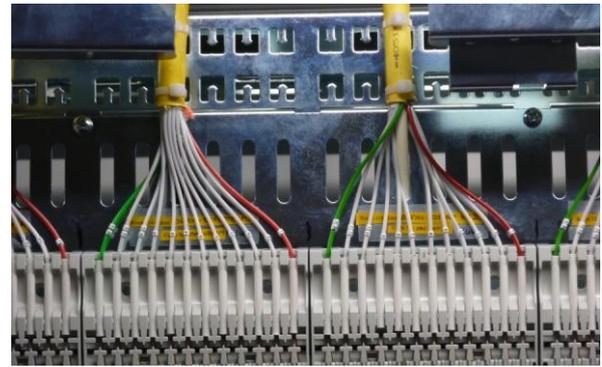
What are the County Council's Plans to ensure delivery to the 'Final 10%'

Providing access to Superfast Broadband to the final 10% or so of premises in the county will be the most challenging and most costly to achieve. The County Council's funding strategy to secure additional resources is already making progress.

Six Expressions of Interest to the Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF) have now been approved by Government over two bidding rounds and full applications have been invited.

The community led Tove Valley project was the first in the UK to submit a full RCBF application which is a fantastic effort and achievement. A decision by Government is expected on the Tove Valley project in November 2012.

RCBF Project	Bid Value (£)	No. of Premises
Tove Valley	93,630	579
Rockingham	293,000	1,986
Welford & South Kilworth	108,000	771
Warmington & Lutton	101,180	495
Newbottle, Charlton & Kings Sutton	268,000	1,193
Cottesbrooke	14,500	73
Total	878,310	5,097



RCBF alone will not be enough to address the funding gap towards full Superfast Broadband coverage by 2017. The County Council will be pursuing other local, national and EU funding opportunities over the coming 18 months.

All of the latest news about the Project is available on the superfast Northamptonshire [blog site](#).

Further Information

For more information on *superfast Northamptonshire* please visit the blog site.

<http://superfastnorthamptonshire.net/>

Contact

For further information on anything you have read in the newsletter, please contact the County Council's Broadband Delivery Team at

Bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk

The County Council thanks you for your continued support.



Northamptonshire County Council Boundary

Region

NGA Black Postcodes

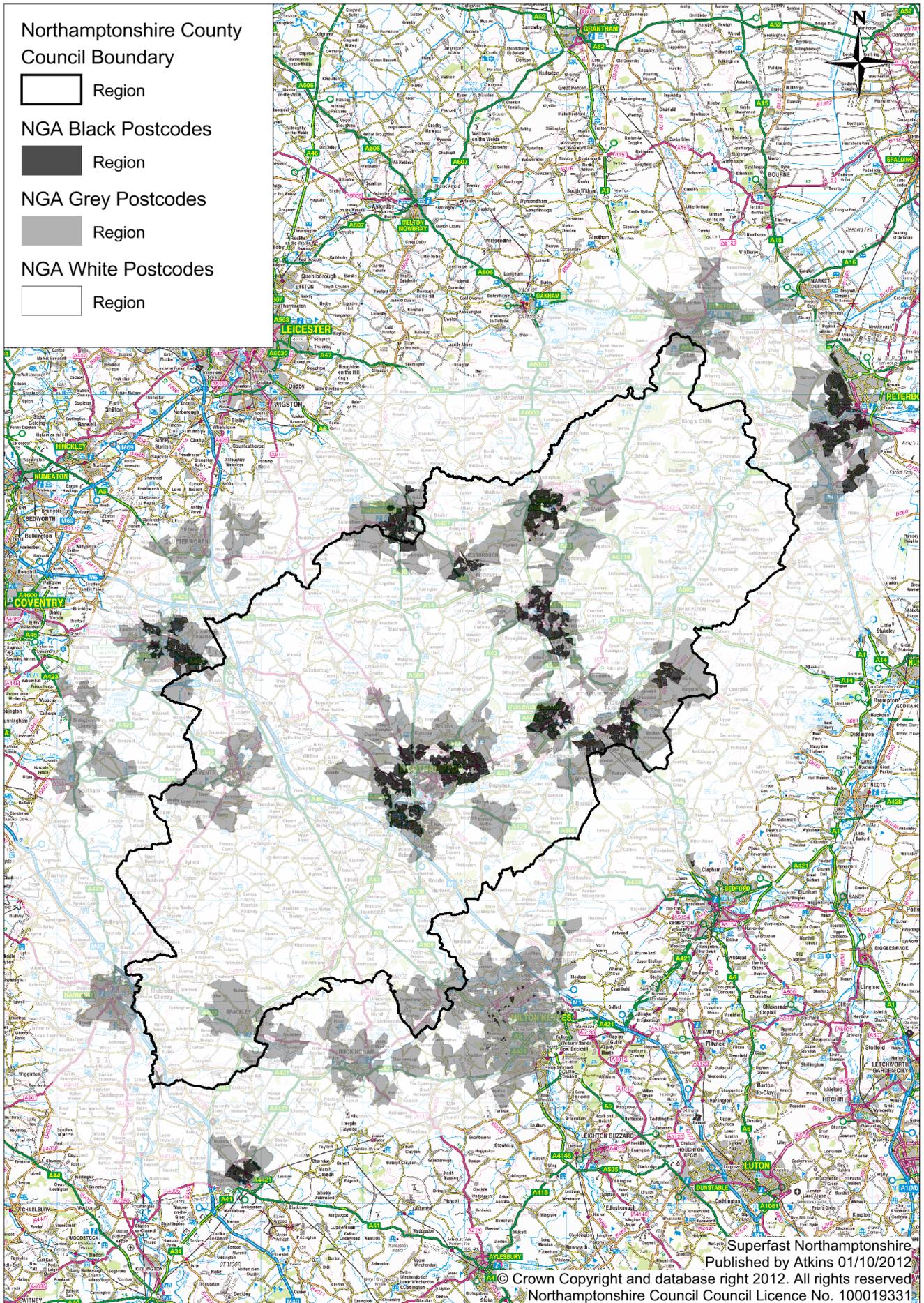
Region

NGA Grey Postcodes

Region

NGA White Postcodes

Region



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