

SUPERFAST broadband



January 2012

Surrey County Council wants to ensure that homes and businesses in Surrey are able to access superfast broadband, no matter where they are located in the county.



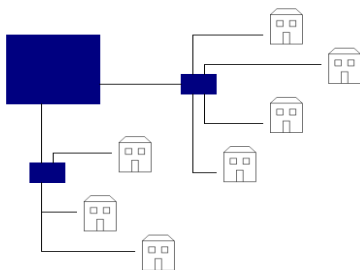
This bulletin is circulated monthly to provide an update on progress towards achieving this ambition. Please pass it onto to anyone who is interested in the project. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please e-mail superfastbbsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk.

'Techy Stuff'

SCC is following an EU procurement process to identify a private sector partner to deliver superfast broadband capability across Surrey. This work is now well underway and we are in dialogue with three strong bidders to develop the best technological solution to deliver Surrey's ambition.

The end result could incorporate a mix of different technologies...

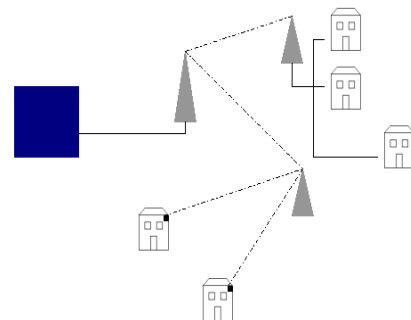
Fibre based



A fibre based solution involves connecting homes and businesses via a series of fibre optic and copper cables. This sort of network would have the capability to deliver very fast speeds but problems can be caused when properties are situated at

long distances from the core infrastructure.

Wireless



This type of network would transmit a wireless signal between masts that can then be connected to a premise – either through the use of a wireless signal receiver or cabling. Wireless can be very useful for reaching those homes and businesses that are long distances away.

Satellite

It is also possible to receive broadband via satellite by installing a satellite dish at a property. This would normally only be used in very rural locations.



Whatever the solution looks like, all of these technologies will deliver an open access network that will enable homes and businesses in Surrey to subscribe to Superfast Broadband via a choice of different internet service providers and packages.

DEFRA's Community Rural Broadband Fund



The Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has recently announced a £20 million national fund to support the improvement of broadband in rural areas. Communities will be able to bid for funding and applications will need to be aligned with their local authority's Local Broadband Plan. We will have more detail on Surrey's position once the procurement process has concluded. In the meantime, we will continue to work with central Government to put Surrey in a strong position.

What you've said...

We have been out and about over the last few months, attending many events and visiting lots of different groups. You've given us some useful feedback...

We recognise that some of you know that broadband speeds of anything above 2mbps would be a vast improvement, whilst others foresee needing 100, 200 or even 300mbps before long!

The ambition is to agree a solution that will be future proofed and will enable an element of choice.

One thing that we do all agree on is the necessity of broadband access, and that it must be reliable. 3000 people have completed our survey and 99.5% agree that it is important for everyone in Surrey to be able to access good broadband speeds.

We have had comments from hundreds of businesses to stress how essential decent broadband access is to them:

"Faster broadband would allow us to offer new services"

"It would allow me to trade at any time"

"It would reduce my company's carbon footprint"

"We would be able to make use of cloud computing to save costs"

"It would make our business much more efficient"

"I will be able to work more quickly and better communicate with customers in the UK and overseas "

"It is CRUCIAL"

You can find more information on what businesses are saying about broadband on our web pages.

It is so important that residents and businesses in Surrey continue to complete the survey. The information is essential to supporting the dialogue with the broadband industry. Go to www.superfastsurrey.org.uk.

Contact Us

We intend to keep you regularly updated with progress. If you have been forwarded this bulletin and would like to receive future updates directly please email us.

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