

## November 2012

*Surrey County Council's 'One County, One Team' Corporate Strategy 2012 – 2017 outlines the following ambition: 'We want to ensure that all Surrey's businesses, households and community organisations can gain access to superfast broadband.'*

*This bulletin is circulated to provide an update on progress towards achieving this aim. Please pass it onto 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](mailto:superfastbbsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk).*

### **Superfast Surrey given long-awaited green light**

Surrey County Council has now received state aid approval for the Superfast Surrey project to bring superfast broadband to all Surrey communities.

The decision, announced by the Government agency Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), paves the way for essential survey work to begin to make the project a reality. This work will enable deployment schedules to be finalised and the council will be able to announce in early 2013 when superfast broadband will be available to each area.



The £33 million contract, which was signed in September by Surrey County Council and BT, has been waiting for approval from EU regulators. This approval relates to state aid regulations that are put in place by the European Commission to prevent the commercial market from distortion by the

public sector. The Superfast Surrey project sits within these regulations and must ensure that it is only spending public money to provide superfast fibre broadband to those areas that cannot access it through the commercial market.

BDUK, part of the Department for Culture Media and Sport, has agreed a system of national state aid notification with the European Commission and obtained delegated authority to approve UK local broadband projects. Negotiations between BDUK and the Commission had been delayed but approval for Surrey's project was given on 21 November 2012.



Surrey County Council's Deputy Leader, Peter Martin said: "This is fantastic news. We are at the forefront of superfast broadband deployment in the UK and our residents and businesses will be amongst the first to benefit. This means that we can go ahead and make Surrey the best connected county in the UK."

## Next steps

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The project team has been working with BT since the contract was signed in September to do as much preparation as possible prior to state aid approval. We have made good progress and BT's network division, Openreach are now able to start the survey work needed to finalise deployment plans.



This is a complex engineering project that specifically targets hard-to-reach parts of the county. As a first step it requires a thorough survey to assess the condition of the existing cabinets and ducting and the configuration of the cabling before any upgrade can begin. BT's experience doing similar work around the UK suggests that it is impossible to predict what the situation is like underground, for example whether the ducting for the cable is missing or has collapsed.

The Superfast Surrey project is ambitious and will develop countywide fibre-based infrastructure that will provide superfast broadband access for nearly 100% of homes and businesses in Surrey.

Every property on the fibre footprint will be able to access 'fibre on demand' that could deliver ultra-fast speeds of up to 330mbps if needed.

The project will also look into the use alternative technologies for the small handful of premises that cannot be reached by the fibre footprint. Both BT and Surrey County Council have ring fenced funding to develop superfast broadband options for these homes and businesses.

Although the scale of the task is huge, when completed this project will make Surrey the best connected county in the UK and transform the way that we do business and go about our day-to-day lives.

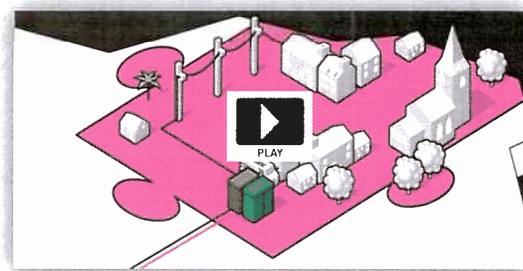
The project team will be in a position to publish a deployment schedule early in 2013, which will include information for every postcode in Surrey.

## See how it's built

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Once the surveys are complete, BT will begin to deploy superfast broadband infrastructure right across the county. This will build on work already ongoing in Surrey as part of BT's commercial roll-out and will be completed in phases to cover ever exchange area in the county.

Watch the video below for more information on how Surrey's superfast broadband network will be built or [click here](#) to view it with subtitles.



## Contact Us

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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.

Email: [superfastbbsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:superfastbbsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk)

Twitter: @SuperfastSurrey

Tel: 03456 009 009

Website: [www.superfastsurrey.org.uk](http://www.superfastsurrey.org.uk)