

## Progress update: Connecting Devon and Somerset

**Latest announcement:** Following January's media announcement on exchange areas, CDS can now confirm the 25 communities within these areas that will benefit from high-speed fibre broadband. Some 70,000 homes and businesses are set to be connected by July 2014.

The latest areas to benefit from the £94 million programme's roll-out plans in Devon include: Ashford, Landkey, Heanton Punchardon, Braunton, Morthoe and Swimbridge in North Devon; Burllescombe in Mid Devon; Feniton, Ottery St Mary, Dunkeswell, Membury and Honiton in East Devon; Newton Abbot, Ashburton, Ilsington, Kingskerswell and Bovey Tracey in Teignbridge; and Belstone in West Devon.

In Somerset the programme will roll out to Horton, Barrington, Ilminster, Broadway, Dowlish Wake and Kingstone in South Somerset; and Wellington in Taunton Deane.

**DCMS announcement:** We welcome the announcement from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), February 17<sup>th</sup> 2014 of the additional £22.75 million funding for the Connecting Devon and Somerset programme, but finding the required match funding from existing budgets will be extremely challenging.

**Lobbying for CDS:** The local authorities in the partnership are working closely with our MPs who are directly lobbying Ministers at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on our behalf. Senior members of the CDS team have also spoken to the Secretary of State for DCMS, Maria Miller, on the match funding issue during her recent visit to Newton Abbot and to reinforce the critical importance of superfast broadband as part of our need for greater resilience.

Resilience is now the major issue for the peninsula and broadband is an essential factor, enabling our businesses and communities to transform the way they work and allowing them to continue to grow and develop our economy. We are committed to securing the best deal for our area as well as the future of our infrastructure.

**Areas already covered:** Many premises in the parishes below will be able to connect to superfast broadband infrastructure. Constituents will need to contact their Internet Service Provider when their area goes live and arrange to upgrade their broadband package. A comprehensive postcode list is available on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website.

Previously announced areas where fibre is already available: Sticklepath, Bradford- On-Tone, West Monkton, Taunton, Exeter, Holsworthy, Bridgwater, Exminster, Okehampton, Bishops Lydeard, Henlade, North Curry, Wellington, Kennford, Crediton, Hatherleigh, Barnstaple, Hemyock and Newton St.Cyres.

Areas set to get fibre broadband by the end of March 2014: Blagdon Hill, Moretonhampstead, Christow, North Tawton, Greenham, Milverton and Longdown.

**Ready for Service map:** As always when we make these announcements, we will update 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.

**Parish communications:** As well as the media announcements throughout our area, once individual cabinets are Ready for Service, we send out letters to all the affected parishes letting 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.

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