



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

**SUPERFAST
BRITAIN**

Northamptonshire County Council

Via Email

Please ask for: Sarah Naylor
Superfast Northamptonshire
Programme Overview Manager

Date: 09 November 2018

Dear Parish Clerk

Superfast Northamptonshire – Broadband Roll out Update

I am writing to update you about the Superfast Northamptonshire project and more specifically some delays with the deployment being delivered by Gigaclear and BT/Openreach. These delays mean that a number of communities will not be served as quickly as first expected. The County Council recognises that this is very frustrating for the residents and businesses affected. However, it remains committed to working with both suppliers to see these plans fulfilled.

Both suppliers have been instructed to prepare new deployment plans. This is to provide clarity on revised delivery timescales. The latest delivery programme for Gigaclear is now available on the [Roll Out Schedule](#) and on its website at www.gigaclear.net. The remaining delivery programme for BT/Openreach will be added to the 'Coming soon' list once remodelling had been completed and details are confirmed. The [When and Where map](#) is being updated to reflect the changes to deployment timescales.

There are a number of factors impacting on Gigaclear and/or BT/Openreach and contributing to these delays. These include:

- Access to skilled civil engineering resources – these are in high demand nationally
- Confirming solution designs for a number of more challenging and costly structures
- Issues encountered with a number of unsafe and historic bridges
- Delays for other utility providers to complete works on the highway where shared utility works cannot be agreed
- Complex wayleave agreements over private land

No additional costs will be borne by the County Council as a result of any delays. These will be met by the suppliers. Furthermore, the County Council is working with both suppliers to identify opportunities to improve on these timescales.

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Despite these issues, the project is still on track to see around 98% of premises in the county able to access superfast broadband by the end of 2018 (note: this is when combined with commercial coverage). Work with BT/Openreach is currently expected to provide superfast broadband access to around 73,000 premises. Over 71,000 premises are already served. The contracts with Gigaclear will deliver full-fibre ultrafast broadband solutions to over 6,300 rural homes and businesses which are currently without access to superfast broadband. Indeed, more than 800 premises can now take up ultrafast services in the rural areas and Gigaclear Networks have dug and laid over 250km of fibre to date across Northamptonshire.

Please visit www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net for any updates and follow the project via twitter using the handle [@SFastNorthants](https://twitter.com/SFastNorthants).

Yours sincerely



Ian Achurch
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Northamptonshire County Council