

LIGHT TOUCH SCRUTINY STUDY OF ROLL OUT OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND

August, 2014

MONITORING REPORT – MARCH, 2015

Background

1. A light touch study of the roll out of Superfast Broadband was included in the Team's work programme for 2014/15.
2. Superfast Lancashire accepted our invitation to attend the August meeting and gave a presentation on the programme.
3. The target was to achieve fibre broadband coverage of 92% in Pendle by March, 2015.
4. Superfast Lancashire has provided the following update on the position as at February, 2015.

Current Position

5. Around 37,000 premises, representing 89.5% of Pendle now has fibre broadband service coverage.
6. The Superfast Lancashire programme plans to deliver a further 1,200 premises by summer 2015 which will take fibre broadband coverage to 92.5% of the borough. Recent (since December 2014) areas where the programme has delivered fibre broadband services include Colne (1000 premises), Earby (400 premises) and Higham (300 premises).
7. The remaining elements of the planned rollout activity are mainly within the rural parts of the borough.
8. This work is inherently more challenging for fibre broadband to be delivered to due to factors including distance and geography. Many of these rural areas are served off the telephone exchange in Nelson and involves extensive work including a route which takes buried cable up Pendle Hill to reach communities within that proximity.
9. Whilst fibre broadband take up within Pendle has doubled since the last update that Superfast Lancashire provided, to around 10%, we would like to ensure that homes and businesses within the borough take advantage of the benefits that fibre broadband can offer to them.

10. These factors include simultaneous use of broadband services by multiple users in the same home, faster downloads and streaming of films / TV programmes, and improvements in downloading and playing games online.
11. Specifically for businesses they can also enjoy ability to upload and download large files, as well as collaborative working using video conferencing / screen sharing, without having to resort to traditionally more expensive solutions.
12. Anyone can check the availability of fibre broadband in their area by entering their phone number in to the line checker on the Superfast Lancashire website (www.superfastlancashire.com). If fibre is available when the line has been checked then all that people need to do is to contact their Internet provider to upgrade their line.
13. Due to the many deals that exist in the market today it is even possible that signing up for fibre broadband could be cheaper than peoples existing copper broadband deals.

Town Hall,
NELSON,

Report Author: Kath Haydock (Tel:) (01282) 661607 E-Mail: kath.haydock@pendle.gov.uk

Background Papers: Update from Superfast Lancashire

Date: 25th February, 2015