



West Sussex Superfast Broadband Pilots
 Simon Matthews – Executive Director
 Rural West Sussex Partnership



Setting the scene:

“Access to the Internet shouldn’t be a luxury; it should be a right – absolutely fundamental to life in 21st century Britain. That is why I’m announcing a giant leap in my digital mission for Britain. Just as our forebears effectively brought gas, electricity and water to all, we’re going to bring fast broadband to every home and business that wants it. That’s right: we’re getting Britain – all of Britain – online, and on the way to becoming the most prosperous economy in the whole of Europe”

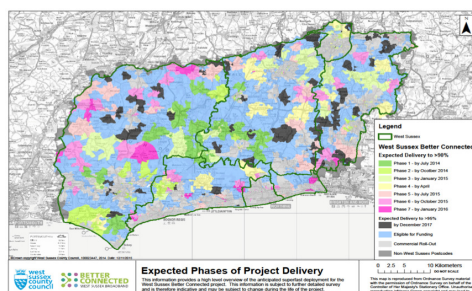


David Cameron MP, Prime Minister:
 7th November 2015 - Government statement
 9th November - CBI conference

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West Sussex Superfast Broadband Targets

- **By Spring 2016:**
 - 90% of premises with access to superfast at 24Mbps
 - All premises in the intervention area with access to 2Mbps
- **By End 2017:**
 - 95% of premises with access to superfast at 24Mbps



But: this is 95% of **premises** not 95% of West Sussex. Therefore a significant amount of the West Sussex area may not be covered by commercial or the current WSCC/BDUK roll-out as shown in **blue shading**.

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Bid to Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

- **LEP Growth is Digital priority:**
 - £3.4m secured in the first Growth Deal with Government
 - Secured Digital Catapult in Brighton
 - Supporting Ultrafast hubs in Brighton and along the coast
 - Co-funding 5G development with University of Surrey and industry
- **Last 5% Superfast Broadband issue:**
 - Three LEP Area Partnerships lobbied for funding to support last 5%
 - Rural West Sussex Partnership (RWSP)
 - Gatwick Diamond Initiative (GDI)
 - Coastal West Sussex Partnership (CWSP)
- **Secured £450k to support two digital pilots:**
 - Supported by South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)
 - Supported by West Sussex County Council (WSCC)

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Bid to Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

■ Tranche 1 – Business parks, estates and commercial locations:

- Business parks
- Trading estates
- Industrial estates
- Farm diversification schemes
- Clusters of businesses in a common location
- Single business locations with high economic impact
- Potentially cluster of home-based businesses in a common location
- Launching 30th November 2015

■ Tranche 2 – Rural area intervention programme:

- Specific rural area(s) not covered within commercial or WSCC/BDUK roll-out
- Review of alternative of technologies most effective for rural use
- Launching 2016/2017



Coast to Capital Digital Pilot Programme – Tranche 1

■ What is it?

- Grant funding to help businesses gain access to superfast broadband (30Mbps)

■ Where is eligible?

- West Sussex County (not Surrey or Croydon at present)
- Locations **not** been or being enabled by the commercial roll-out e.g. by BT
- Locations **not** been or being enabled by the WSCC/BDUK roll-out
- Applicants must verify this by emailing the WS Better Connected team

■ Who is eligible to apply?

- SME Businesses or groups of businesses in a common location
- Landowners, land agents, estate managers, facility managers
- Programme is **not** open to residential applicants
- But a cluster of home-based businesses may be eligible



Coast to Capital Digital Pilot Initiative – Tranche 1

■ How much is available?

- Grant funding of **between £10k and £25k** is available per location/application
- The maximum grant intervention is **40%** of total project cost
- The applicant must provide a minimum of **60%** of the total project cost
- Therefore minimum project size is **£25k** i.e. £10k grant, £15k applicant
- The grant element can only be used for **capital** purchases
- Revenue costs must be covered within the applicants 60% share of funding

■ What technology can be used?

- Generally the applicant will select the best technology for their location
- **But** it must provide certified speed of minimum 30Mbps (new EU requirement)
- Fibre, wireless and hybrid solutions will be considered
- Satellite may not be eligible, please refer to grant body



Coast to Capital Digital Pilot Initiative – Tranche 1

■ On what basis are grants offered?

- The grant applications are assessed on a value-for-money basis
- The economic impact of the grant intervention will also be considered
- The overall deliverability of the proposed project will also be considered
- Grant applications will be assessed by the programme partnership panel
- The programme partnership decision whether to fund is final and binding

■ How does the grant programme work?

- Detailed guidance and application form will be available on LEP website
- Possible applicants should download and read **very** carefully
- Queries to the programme partnership via **broadband@southdowns.gov.uk**
- Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding contract
- Funded projects may require a final site visit and/or audit



Coast to Capital Digital Pilot Initiative – Tranche 1

■ What about State Aid?

- Applicants must **not** have received over €200,000 (currently £145,000) of public funding in the last 3 years (De Minimis rules)

■ Timescales?

- The call for applications will be open from **Monday 30th November**
- The call for applications will close on **Friday 15 January 2016 at 17.00**
- Applications from this call will be assessed within 4 weeks
- Successful applicants may need to go through additional due diligence
- Grant payment schedule will be agreed between applicant and WSCC
- Subsequent calls for applications will be posted on the LEP website

NB: Please note these slides are a summary of the programme please refer to the full guidance notes and application form for details



Thank You



