

## Super Fast Broad Band

### Possibilities for Further Speed

Most residents/businesses have had the opportunity to take up super fast broad band with the funded scheme rolled out by Hampshire County Council. Because the speed which can be obtained reduces as you are further from the connection box, some may not find it adequate for their needs. The distance at which there may be little or no advantage with the fibre to the cabinet scheme varies depending on the quality of the copper/aluminium connection to the local fibre enabled box. This is usually between 1 and 1.5 kilometres, aluminium cables being worse.

In rural areas such as ours, most communities have looked at the Government Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) scheme to help customers with the funding of an extended fibre connection to obtain a faster speed.

In eligible areas, the RGC offers £3500 per SME (Small/Medium Enterprise) and £1500 per residential premise within the scheme. The interpretation of SME is fairly broad and can include a person operating from home. There needs to be a co-ordinator to apply for the support. He/she would then supply the location of each SME and residential property wishing to participate. The more SME/ residences included will increase the financial support but it should be noted that large numbers are more difficult to manage. To minimise the cost of installation the participants should be grouped in an area since the main cost per scheme is the setting up and installation of the fibre to the general area of those participating. Splitting out to the individual properties, if they are nearby, does not add much cost.

Once the provider has received the application, they will give an estimate followed by a quotation of the cost which the community group has to pay. This is offset by the grant vouchers listed above to partially or fully cover the cost and the community group themselves have to decide how to split up any cost in excess of the voucher funding that there may be. This will obviously depend upon the number participating and the work required for installation. Please note that the vouchers cannot be used to fund the VAT element of cost.

Full terms and conditions of the scheme may be found in website <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GBVS-Beneficiary-Terms-and-Conditions-v5.0.pdf>

Some local community groups have successfully used the Openreach Community Fibre Partnership (CFP) from their website [www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk](http://www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk) Once registered with them you will be sent a link within a day or so to lodge addresses for the scheme. This will allow a CFP Gap Cost (the cost you will have to pay) to be generated. This can be covered in part or in full by RGC voucher funding and CFP being an approved supplier claim the RGC money for you. Full terms and conditions of the scheme may be viewed on web site

It should be noted that the whole process takes time both for the work required to generate a quotation and for the installation of the system. At present the closing date for completion of work on projects is 31 March 2021. This may seem a long way away but bear in mind the comment about the long time to set up and implement.

In order to help in the formation of a group, the Parish Council ask for an email letting us know if you already have a group with a co-ordinator in mind or you are interested in becoming a co-ordinator/joining a group. In this way, with your permission we can share details between interested participants.

When such a scheme has been implemented, each participant has then to contact their own chosen Internet Service Provider (such as BT, Talk Talk, Sky, Plusnet etc, there is a long list on the

web site) and select a service package to meet their needs. They all offer a range of speeds, contract duration, setting up and ancillary items at different costs for you to choose from. We have only referred to the rural scheme here since this should cover our area but your supplier for the scheme can check this if you want to find out whether particular post codes qualify for the rural vouchers. If they do not, there is another scheme which offers less funding, but can be used for non rural and rural site. The two schemes can be compared on <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/>