

## Progress update: Connecting Devon and Somerset

**Parliamentary Briefings:** Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) will be offering opportunities for briefings with all our MPs in Westminster towards the end of October.

**Latest announcement:** CDS has announced the first communities set to benefit from high speed fibre broadband. This means that the technology is in place and ready to go in parts of those areas. Business and residents simply need to contact their Internet Service Provider to find out the new tariffs and upgrade their package

- The first cabinets at Sticklepath in Devon and Bradford on Tone in Somerset have already gone live and are available for service.
- Moretonhampstead, Holsworthy, Bishops Lydeard, Creech St Michael and Monkton Heathfield (near Taunton) will see high speed fibre start to become available by the end of the year.
- Detailed survey work on Phase 2 has started.

The detailed survey work is required to finalise the deployment plan for any exchange area. It has to take into account the technology, infrastructure and work required to connect any given cabinet to the existing national fibre infrastructure.

**Final coverage map:** This map, which went live on the CDS website on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, shows the top level information currently available on the expected final coverage of the combined commercial and CDS programmes by the end of 2016. This information is subject to change as the programme progresses and further survey and planning work is undertaken. Because of these expected changes, the map should not be treated as a guarantee of provision.

**Interactive map:** CDS published an interactive map over the Summer. The map, which went live on the CDS website on at the end of June, provides current headline information on when people can expect high speed fibre broadband in their area. As more information becomes available through the creation of area-specific deployment plans, the map will be updated.

**Community broadband:** CDS is working in partnership with DEFRA, DCMS and BT to support community broadband initiatives and the few communities that fall into the final 10%. As well as seeking additional funding and looking at the alternative technologies we can deploy to these areas, CDS is looking to find out how we can access some of the further £250 million investment announced by the government last June.

**Looking ahead:** We are looking forward to our next cabinets being ready for service and will provide more information when we are able to make this announcement.

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