In December 2012 Norfolk County Council and BT signed a deal to make superfast broadband (24 Megabits per second plus) available to more than 80% of Norfolk's homes and businesses by the end of 2015. The Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme completed ahead of schedule in September 2015, having given 186,000 extra Norfolk premises access to high-speed broadband.

An extension to the programme is now underway, which will make better broadband available to even more Norfolk premises and contribute to the national target of making superfast broadband available to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017.

We aim to keep the people of Norfolk updated about the programme on the BBfN website (www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk) and via these information sheets every three months. Read on for our latest update.

What’s happened since the last update?

More high-speed broadband services have gone live, taking us to around 190,000 premises that can now access faster broadband thanks to the BBfN programme. Since the second BBfN contract got underway late last year services have become available to homes and businesses in parts of Burgh St Peter, Barford, Barnham Broom, Bawdeswell, Bressingham, North Creake, Dereham, Bexwell, Downham Market, Ashwellthorpe, Beechamwell, Oxborough, Great Yarmouth, Bradwell, Gorleston, Shropham, Hanworth, Starston, Harleston, Hickling, Sea Palling, North Elmham, Snetterton, Causton, Edgefield, Sheringham, Bradenham, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Southrepps, Whittleton, Boughton, Gunthorpe, Ridlington, East Ruston, Setchey, Watton, Weasenham St Peter, Little Fransham, West Runton, Bodham, Topcroft, Woodton, Wymondham, Cromer, Sandringham, Little Walsingham and Wroxham.

The new roadside fibre cabinets we install serve very localised areas, usually parts of towns and villages rather than whole communities. So some of the locations in this latest ‘batch’ are in areas where we have previously made better broadband available, but serve a different part of the town and village.

As services become available, people can check whether their home or business premises can receive better broadband services as a result via the BBfN website. To get a faster service, people need to contact an internet service provider (ISPs) to see what broadband packages they can receive. You should be able to see which ISPs provide broadband services to your home or business after you’ve used the broadband line checker via our website (www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk).

Which areas will receive better broadband next?

By the end of the year we expect to bring better broadband to parts of Titchwell, North Lopham, Thelveton, Docking, East Harling, Dunton, Barton Bendish, Fincham, Great Yarmouth, Halvergate, Reedham, Harpley, Stibbard, Hempnall, Gayton Saxlingham Nethergate, Hunstanton, King's Lynn (including Hardwick, Saddlebow and North Lynn Industrial Estates), Walsingham, Thuxton, Wiggenhall St Mary, West Dereham, Flordon, Great Bircham, Hindringham, Great Dunham, Aylmerton and Stiffkey.

We’ve also started work on the areas that are due to receive better broadband by summer 2017. In 12 months’ time, we should have brought high-speed broadband to parts of Aylsham, Brooke, Little Plumstead, Horstead, Harpsfield, Norwich, Bungay, Costessey, West Newton, Downham Market, Tattersett, Fleggburgh, Foulsham, Guist, Poringland, Gayton, Great Cressingham, Stratton Strawless, Thetford, Colton, Horning, Thorpe Abbotts, King’s Lynn, Gt. Snoring, Thorston, Brookville, East Carleton, Brisley, North Walsham, Peppers-with-Bastwick, Tivetshall St Mary, Hales, Thorpe,
Trimingham, Rockland St Mary, Surlingham, Bramerton, Swaffham, Tasburgh, Syderstone, Thetford, Postwick, Fulmodeston, Kettlestone, Thurton, Happisburgh, Tittleshall, Ashmanhaugh, Tunstead, Wroxham and Wicklewood.

As the programme continues, we’re reaching more remote parts of Norfolk, which pose more difficulties to BT’s engineers, and where there are fewer premises in the radius of the new cabinets. So with each announcement of new services becoming available, the number of premises who can access high-speed broadband will probably be smaller than during the first contract – but no less hotly anticipated, we’re sure.

If you require further information please visit [www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk](http://www.betterbroadbandfornorfolk.co.uk) or telephone Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020.