

Better Broadband for Norfolk Information Sheet 27 (31 August 2017)

In December 2012 Norfolk County Council and BT signed a deal to extend the availability of superfast broadband (24 Megabits per second plus) 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 is now set to make high-speed broadband available to more than 95 per cent of Norfolk's premises by spring 2020.

We aim to keep the people of Norfolk updated about the programme on the BBfN website (www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk) and via a regular newsletter. Read on for our latest update.

What's happened since the last update?

No summer break for the Better Broadband for Norfolk programme! We're continuing to make good progress and currently 88% of the county's homes and businesses can receive a superfast broadband service.

Are you still on track to make high-speed broadband available to 95% of Norfolk by 2020?

Yes, we're still on schedule and we anticipate hitting 90% in the first half of next year. If your home or business is in the 5% where unfortunately there are currently no plans to make better broadband available, we haven't forgotten about you and we'll keep doing all we can to make our money go as far as possible and explore any opportunities to get more investment in BBfN.

In the meantime, there is information about a national broadband subsidy scheme on the BBfN website which those with the slowest broadband speeds are eligible for – look under the FAQs section at www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk.

How can I find out if my home or business can buy a high-speed broadband service?

You can check by postcode area on our broadband map of Norfolk on the BBfN website. If better broadband is already available in your area, the website will advise you on what to do next. If high-speed broadband isn't currently available to your address, the website will tell you whether there are plans to provide it under the BBfN programme. Keep checking back on the website for the latest information.

Anything else to report?

Earlier in the summer, Norfolk County Council demonstrated the priority it puts on digital connectivity in Norfolk by creating a new Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee. Made up of county councillors, the committee intends to help improve broadband, mobile and other digital services in the county, either directly or by lobbying others.

To reflect this wider remit, in the future we'll scoop up BBfN updates into a broader 'digital services' newsletter. If you currently receive this information sheet we'll send you the new-look newsletter automatically, so you don't need to do anything. If you want to be removed or added to the newsletter's distribution list, please email BetterBroadbandforNorfolkProject@norfolk.gov.uk and we'll sort it.

If you require further information please visit www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk or telephone Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020.