

Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Update – August 2017

Bringing superfast broadband to over 96% of homes and businesses in Oxfordshire by the end of 2018



General programme information

Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is a partnership between Oxfordshire County Council, BT and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) that has already provided access to superfast broadband to **over 90%** of premises in Oxfordshire.

What we've achieved:

- ✓ 90% of Oxfordshire premises to have access superfast broadband by December 2015
- ✓ 47% take-up after service installed for eighteen months

What we're aiming for:

- 95% of Oxfordshire premises to have access to superfast broadband by December 2017
- 96% of Oxfordshire premises to have access to superfast broadband by December 2018
- Options to extend coverage to above 96%

Better Broadband for Oxfordshire now has three phases:

Phase one completed on time at the end of December 2015, providing over **64,500 premises** with access to superfast broadband.

Phase two will provide superfast broadband to a further **11,100 premises** by December 2017 and is co-funded by OxLEP, SEMLEP, South Oxfordshire, Cherwell and Vale of White Horse District Councils, Oxford City Council, and BDUK.

Phase three will add a further **2,400 premises** during 2018. This final phase has just been contracted and is entirely funded by contract savings achieved to date plus a £2.56m Gainshare offer from BT resulting from high take-up of superfast broadband in Oxfordshire.

This additional coverage is now shown on the [maps](#) found on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website.

Due to further savings accrued during delivery of the programme to date, we have also now launched the [Co-Funded Community Fibre Partnership Scheme](#).

This Co-Funding option is aimed at finding a solution for the final few percent of premises which are simply too expensive to be entirely funded from the public purse. Further information on this is available at the Better Broadband website, [Final 4%](#).

How to get connected?

When superfast broadband is available, you need to contact your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to request an upgrade. [See our FAQ](#), 'Get connected – 5 simple steps on how to upgrade,' but check terms and conditions carefully with your existing service provider as there may be cancellation charges if you switch supplier. You can check options by visiting price comparison websites or by visiting our [homepage](#).



To help people find out for themselves whether they are in scope for Better Broadband for Oxfordshire and likely timescales for delivery, we have created two maps – the [Postcode Map](#) and the [Cabinet Map](#).

Please note - the only means of providing map data is by using postcode areas. The icons on the postcode map represent the geographic centre of a postcode. Some postcodes are served by more than one cabinet, and sometimes not all cabinets within a postcode are enabled.

Get in touch

You can stay informed by using the links below and signing-up to our [newsletter](#).

Alternatively, if you have a specific question that you can't find an answer to in our [FAQs](#) then please send us an email. Do make sure that you provide your full postal address and landline telephone number, so that we can investigate your enquiry more accurately for you.

Email us at: broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Superfast broadband coverage in Whitchurch-on-Thames

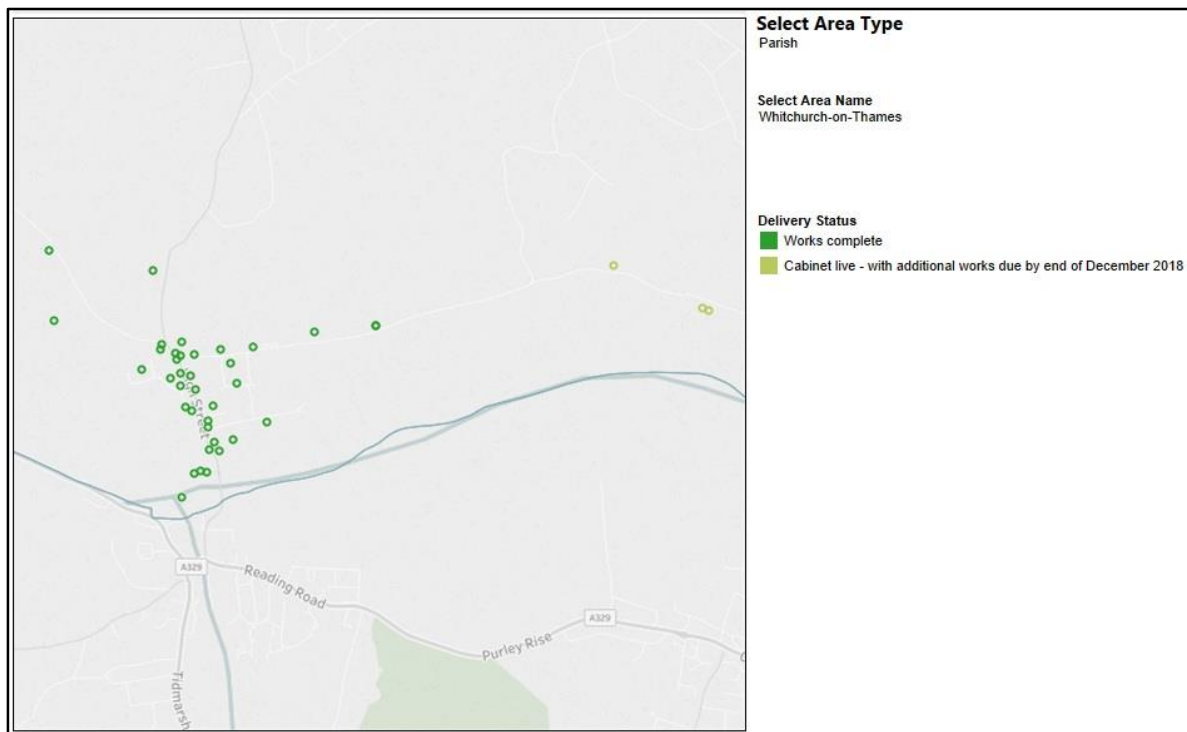
At the start of the Better Broadband programme, Whitchurch-on-Thames did not have access to superfast broadband. The majority of premises in the parish now do, as a result of the works of the programme. There is also some additional work due for completion by the end of 2018, which will add to the existing coverage.

There are very few premises forecast to remain without access to superfast broadband and where this is the case, the Better Broadband programme has launched the [co-funding scheme](#), which is detailed on the website.

The map below shows existing and planned coverage in your parish at a postcode level. Within a postcode, there are instances where some premises may not be able to order a superfast broadband product due to distance from a fibre enabled cabinet.

By viewing this map on the Better Broadband website, each icon will display the postcode when the cursor is placed on it, or you can search by postcode.

It is important and helpful to us if any inaccuracy is encountered to please contact the team at: broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk



What if my property is still unable to get superfast broadband?

Further information is available on the Better Broadband website, specifically in the section titled [Final 4%](#). In summary, the options are:

- self-funding
- [co-funding](#) (with help from OCC)
- [wireless broadband](#) (subsidy vouchers available, subject to eligibility)
- [satellite broadband](#) (subsidy vouchers available, subject to eligibility)
- [3G/4G mobile broadband](#)

Coverage, how and why?

The deployment plan is based on the most efficient and economical solution which will enable the greatest coverage possible with the funding available. No geographical priorities were set by the county council to make sure that the public-sector funding had the greatest impact for as many local people and businesses as possible.

As a project team, we work closely with our colleagues in BT to make sure that we are delivering superfast broadband to the county in the most efficient way we can. We constantly assess areas where we can make savings against the predicted costs of delivery, for example by reusing fibre cabling where possible.

We also work closely with our Highways department to minimise planning challenges and make sure that we locate cabinets in the most appropriate and safe locations, with sensitivity to local concerns. Sometimes physical surveys can bring to light issues that mean the actual cost of delivering a cabinet would be significantly higher than predicted. When this happens our programme team reacts quickly and flexibly to adapt the plan and find an alternative, to make sure that we continue to provide value for money for the tax payer.