

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS' LIAISON COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2013  
title: SUPERFAST BROADBAND – RIBBLE VALLEY ROLLOUT  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
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## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To report on the proposed Fibre Broadband services available through BT/Openreach commercial rollout and its effect in the Ribble Valley.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – Delivery of services to all.
- Corporate Priorities – the implementation of superfast broadband and improved speeds for broadband where superfast is not available will assist in sustaining a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – The achievement of a competitive and sustainable economy will be created for the Borough of Ribble Valley, providing opportunities for employment and continuous business development

## 2 INFORMATION

2.1 High speed fibre broadband is being rolled out across Lancashire between 2013 and the end of 2015

2.2 The network will be delivered in seven phases and the first delivery quarter is quarter 2 2013-2014 (July to September 2013) and expected completion is by the end of quarter 4 2014-2015 (January-March 2015)

2.3 Phase 1 delivers coverage in Blackburn, Burnley, Caton, Chatburn, Forton, Galgate, Lancaster, Leyland and Preston.

2.4 The Superfast Lancashire team have received funding from Lancashire County Council, The European Development Fund (ERDF) and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport towards a business support programme to deliver consultative coaching to eligible businesses of the benefits of Superfast Broadband.

2.5 The programme will assist up to 355 businesses through a practical programme of one to one and group coaching on the business benefits. This support will initially be targeted at six ERDF preferred targets which include:

- Biomedical
- Energy and Environmental Technologies
- Advanced Engineering and Materials

- Food and Drink
- Digital and Creative and Business
- Professional Services
- and/or be classified as a high growth firm.

2.6 The benefits will also be felt across many other businesses who either do not complete the full business support programme, or use some of the freely available content on Superfast Lancashire website.

2.7 For businesses it's the upload speeds that really make a difference. Superfast broadband enables small businesses to work faster and more efficiently, reducing the need to travel. Having faster upload and download speeds also means small businesses can benefit from job creation and business expansion.

2.8 All timescales are indicative and subject to detailed network planning and survey. Residents and users can access [www.superfastlancashire.com](http://www.superfastlancashire.com) to keep up-to-date on rollout plans.

### 3 IMPLICATIONS FOR RIBBLE VALLEY

3.1 Around 40% of premises in the Ribble Valley will receive Fibre Broadband services through the BT/Openreach commercial rollout. This is predominantly through the Clitheroe and Longridge exchanges.

3.2 Approximately 50% of premises should receive coverage under the Superfast Lancashire public/private partnership programme, served by exchanges in Chatburn where work is now underway and is due to be live in September. Mellor (mid 2014), Padiham (late 2014), Whalley (late 2014) and Wilpshire (mid 2014). Some coverage will also be provided in the most rural exchanges in Chipping (late 2014), Dunsop Bridge (mid 2014) and Bolton-by-Bowland (mid 2014).

3.3 All remaining premises will be guaranteed at least a stable 2Mbit/s service by the end of the rollout programme in early 2015 subject to the necessary planning and survey work being carried out successfully.

3.4 The Regeneration Team have attended a meeting with the Superfast Lancashire Team and a representative from BT Openreach to discuss the implications of the Rollout for Ribble Valley and to assess the impact on businesses and how we can assist going forwards.

### 4 CONCLUSION

4.1 That Committee note the report.

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