



Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee 8th November 2018

Update – Superfast North Yorkshire

What is Superfast North Yorkshire and what have we achieved so far?

Superfast North Yorkshire (SFNY) is the project bringing Superfast Broadband to North Yorkshire. The project is built around a partnership between North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and BT to deliver fibre based broadband to the County, and also brings together other initiatives to address rural access to better broadband. The SFNY project is managed on behalf of NYCC by NYnet, it's 100% owned broadband company, and is financed by a mixture of funds from Central Government (BDUK), Europe and NYCC.

SFNY's objective is to deliver superfast broadband capability, i.e. greater than 25Mbps download speed, to approximately half of North Yorkshire, the other half having been delivered commercially. The original contract with BT (Phase 1), valued at £26.5m, covered circa 150,000 premises. A contract extension was extended (Phase 2) to deliver superfast broadband to an additional 15,400 premises, valued at £7.2m. Both phases are fully deployed. The contribution from the public purse for Phase 1 worked out at an average of £177 per premise, with Phase 2 costing significantly more at an average of £465 per premise. The majority of Phase 1 and 2 have been delivered using a technology called Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) which delivers 25Mbps or above at distances of up to 1.2km from each cabinet.

A further procurement has been awarded to BT (SFNY Phase 3), the contract value is £20.5m with scope to extend this by £12.5m. Phase 3 will deliver NGA to 14,239 premises; with the public contribution an average of £1,440 per premise. Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) will be deployed to over 85% of the 14,239 premises. Due to the premise density of conurbations being deployed to, FTTP is becoming more cost effective than FTTC. FTTP does not suffer from the challenges of distance and will see some of the best connectivity in the country reaching some of our more remote locations. Phase 3 deployment will be complete by June 2021.

The proposed premises to be included in Phase 3 are identified on the SFNY website and can be seen on our website at <http://superfastnorthyorkshire.com/#where-when>. Detailed survey and costing work is ongoing to confirm the 'proposed' premises can be delivered and once confirmed the status will change on the map to "planned", with build work then scheduled. The mapping will be updated as we progress through the contract.



What is Superfast North Yorkshire's current and planned activity?

Funding for Phase 3 comes from; BDUK (Central Government) £7.32m, EU £1m and NYCC £12.13m. SFNY's State aid approval, which permits public sector intervention in a failed commercial market place, allows us to spend up to £33m on the existing contract. SFNY has been awarded additional funding from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). Negotiations are ongoing with BT to understand the additional premises that the new funding will bring.

SFNY undertakes a number of initiatives to raise awareness of the availability of superfast broadband and the benefits of upgrading. This demand stimulation has helped consistently raise take-up in North Yorkshire. Currently, take-up is over 54%, and is increasing month on month.

For those properties beyond the reach of faster broadband, BDUK, the broadband delivery arm of the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports has created the Better Broadband Subsidy scheme to subsidise basic broadband connectivity. The scheme enables businesses and residents who receive a broadband connection of 2Mbps or less, to apply for a voucher which can be given one of several approved suppliers to subsidise the installation of the equipment necessary for basic broadband. SFNY is administering the scheme in North Yorkshire and we have approved 1300 vouchers since the beginning of 2016.

Participation in the scheme does not preclude anybody from any future investment in next generation broadband by Superfast North Yorkshire.

Residents and businesses can apply for subsidy under the scheme through the SFNY website at <http://superfastnorthyorkshire.com/better-broadband-scheme/>. The scheme is currently set to run until the end of 2018. If the scheme is to be extended, SFNY will continue to be involved and facilitate the award of subsidy codes.

Demand stimulation will continue. As new locations come on stream under the Phase 3 contract, we will be looking to attract early adopters. FTTP is still an emerging technology for the commercial internet service providers with only a small number offering service to homes. More service providers are beginning to supply FTTP to customers, but a strand of the demand stimulation work will be to explain the limited choice to potential customers and that they may need to move away from their current provider to benefit.

SFNY will be identifying those premises that will not receive superfast broadband after the deployment of Phase 3 and will be exploring the alternatives for a potential Phase 4 solution to cover as many of these remaining properties as possible.

Contacts

General enquiries are initially encouraged to visit our website at www.superfastnorthyorkshire.com where our mapping details the existing and proposed coverage, plus more information on how to upgrade, the Better Broadband Scheme and the range of providers operating in North Yorkshire.

More detailed enquiries can be submitted to info@superfastnorthyorkshire.com.

**Bringing access to superfast broadband to homes
and businesses across North Yorkshire.**