

Why do we need full fibre broadband infrastructure?

The Government wants to increase the amount of full fibre network covering the UK. Currently around 6% of premises in the UK have access to the fastest speeds which travel all the way into buildings over pure optical fibre network. Around 4% of premises in West Sussex currently have access to full fibre network.

Public services are evolving and in the future will be delivered in new and digital ways. This will require faster download and upload speeds, greater bandwidth and increased reliability and resilience. By investing in full fibre network now, we are getting our buildings and our services ready for the future.

What will West Sussex Gigabit do?

The project is building digital infrastructure in key urban locations to selected public sector buildings in the following locations:

- Bognor Regis
- Chichester
- Crawley
- Haywards Heath
- Horsham
- Lancing
- Littlehampton
- Midhurst
- Shoreham
- Worthing

We hope that other public services such as schools, NHS buildings and emergency services will also benefit by choosing to invest in and grow the full fibre network.

What will the benefits be once it is finished?

The cutting-edge technology will ensure that the services and daily business of the county's councils will be able to be more resilient, reliable and at less risk of delay or disruption caused by poor or limited connectivity.

Will gigabit-capable full fibre be built in homes and businesses?

Gigabit West Sussex will not build full fibre network into homes or businesses, but into public sector buildings making it possible for future services to be delivered faster and more efficiently.

'Superfast' fibre broadband speeds of more than 30mbps are currently available in more than 95% of the county. The County Council is working with BT/Openreach and central government to deliver a £30million programme of investment in publicly-funded broadband infrastructure. Find out more at: link to <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/broadband-in-west-sussex/>

The Gigabit Broadband National Voucher Scheme provides help for small and medium enterprise businesses to get a gigabit-capable broadband connection. Vouchers are available now and businesses can claim up to £2,500 against the cost of connection either individually or collate their vouchers as part of a group project.

Find out more at: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Will any road have to be closed during the works?

Some roads may need to be closed during the works. Surveys to determine the cable routes are in progress and the need for road closures will only be confirmed once the routes are finalised. However, we are working closely with the Network Permit Office and with the contractors to keep the disruption to a minimum.

For more details about the permits granted for the Gigabit Project please use WSCC [live transport permit page](#) and filter on the date range and enter the road name in the location or use the search term 'gigabit':

My street has already been dug, why is it being dug up again?

The Gigabit project is following strict project timelines to ensure that all the work is completed by the deadline for this funding (part funded by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)). However, we are working closely with the network permit office and the contractors to minimise disruption.

Construction methods are selected based on multiple criteria such as highways restrictions, public accessibility and the presence of other utilities. City Fibre will consider trenchless techniques where appropriate to minimise disruption, for instance at road crossings.

Why can't all the broadband providers work together to only dig a road once?

Central government are encouraging this via their Framework for UK Fibre Delivery Street Works toolkit campaign.

WSCC are working closely with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to feedback lessons learned from this project in this and other areas.

Where possible City Fibre will coordinate with other planned maintenance and improvement works to minimise disruption.

How do we know they will re-instate the road properly?

The construction activities to build the physical infrastructure will be carried out in accordance with Highways Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC). All reinstatement materials are checked and a comprehensive material testing process is used to verify that reinstatements are completed to the Specification of the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways (SROH) standards

When will the new gigabit broadband services be ready?

We expect that new services will start to become available in Autumn 2019.

I have a question, who can I ask

Email westsussexgigabit@westsussex.gov.uk

Where can I find more information about the Gigabit Project?

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/business-and-consumers/broadband-in-west-sussex/gigabit-capable-broadband/>

