



PROJECT UPDATE

April 2014

Connecting Cheshire is a £31m council led programme to bring fibre broadband to 96% of premises in Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. This will bring superfast fibre to over 80,000 additional premises mainly in our outlying and rural areas by summer 2015.

First Phase roll-out underway

We are delighted to announce that over 15,000 premises can now benefit from the first phase of investment in brand new fibre broadband networks across Cheshire.



As planned, high-speed broadband has now become available in some of our outlying and rural communities announced for Phase 1, further details on the areas which have benefited can be found on our website. We are busy planning our first switch-on events for Alderley Edge, Weaverham and Westwood (Warrington); so keep your eyes open for a Connecting Cheshire sticker on your new green cabinet to tell you that 'fibre is here' and for other events next month.

What next?

Engineers have also begun planning and building the next phase of the Connecting Cheshire project – providing a further 27,000 businesses and homes with access to superfast broadband by the end of the summer. See our [check availability](#) page for our new higher detail PDF maps covering each council area - zoom in to see your area in more detail.

Taking the project further

Connecting Cheshire has successfully bid and won an extra £643,000 from the government to reach around 1,000 additional rural premises with superfast fibre broadband. The funding has been provided to cover premises in four 'hard to reach' areas as an extension to the current Connecting Cheshire programme.

Councillor David Brown, Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council, on behalf of the Connecting Cheshire Partnership said: "This is great news for the project and a real boost to these communities who have campaigned tirelessly to make the case for faster broadband. I would especially like to thank all those who helped us demonstrate high levels of support for this application by securing hundreds of demand registrations across their communities."

Specific coverage details will be confirmed later this year with the project extension starting in March 2015 once BT completes its technical surveys of the areas and develops the optimal roll-out plan to reach as many premises as possible. This funding follows an additional £2.12m allocated by the government towards additional fibre coverage in February.

Award Winning

Connecting Cheshire celebrated success last month, winning bronze for our work in transforming local services at the Government's Improvement and Efficiency Awards. For more information visit www.iese.gov.uk We're also a finalist in the Municipal Journal Awards in the Community Investor category, the winner will be announced in June. Pictured left to right: Presented by Councillor Neil Parkin - Leader, Adur District Council; to Julian Cobley – Project Director Connecting Cheshire; Cllr Neil Findlow - Cheshire East Council and Mike Suarez – Chief Executive Cheshire East Council.



Did you spot it?



Connecting Cheshire created a bit of a stir on April Fools Day with our announcement about securing the renowned graffiti artist Banksy to provide an exclusive design for 3 of our cabinets. Phones were ringing off the hook as members of the project team called in a panic to see if the designs had been approved.... If only they'd checked the date first!

Forthcoming Events

Our Superfast Business Support Programme is holding a free Innovation Through Technology Conference on 8th May at Birchwood Park in Warrington. showcasing and demystifying how new technologies can transform small and medium sized businesses, giving them competitive edge, greater flexibility and potential for growth. For more details see www.ccbusiness.co.uk

We will be attending the Cheshire County Show 17th and 18th June and the Nantwich Show on 30th July as part of the Cheshire East stand. We will once again have the BT technology showcase vehicle on our stand which proved very popular at our January drop-in events.

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