

We're Connecting Cheshire

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

August 2016

Fibre facts and progress



After recently celebrating switching on our 500th cabinet and reaching over 85,000 premises with fibre broadband we thought we'd update you on some of our frequently asked questions on our progress to reaching 98% of Cheshire by summer 2017.

Is Phase 1 completed? Almost! It's been a significant engineering challenge to deliver fibre to over 85,000 premises across Cheshire so far. We still have 19 cabinets that remain where unforeseen delays, blockages and other factors have hampered our progress to date. Rest assured, these have not been forgotten and are still being worked on.

What about the orange areas on your maps? Updated in October 2015, the orange areas on our maps depict our roll-out for phase 2 and some delayed areas from phase 1. Phase 2 is progressing well and we currently have 49 cabinets which are live out of 199.

Will there be a Phase 3? Yes! In November 2015 we were pleased to announce that £3.4 million has been made available thanks to high take-up levels of fibre broadband across the county and as a result of a 'gainshare' arrangement with BT, as part of the Phase 1 roll-out of the Connecting Cheshire programme, see more overleaf. Following a public consultation we are now in the process of identifying which areas we will be targeting next, and further will be announced later this year.

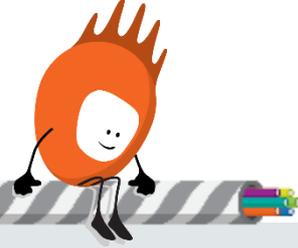


What if I am not included in Phase 3? We are continuing to look for alternative sources of funding to help support further roll-out of fibre broadband to reach the remaining 2% of Cheshire as part of a Phase 4. An application for additional funds via a Digital 2020 project is in the process of being submitted to Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership. Once we know more, we will of course let you know.

Are there any other options? The government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service. As part of the [Better Broadband Scheme](#), a subsidised satellite or wireless broadband installation is now available if you cannot access an affordable broadband service and currently have a speed of less than 2 Mbps. Alternatively you can look into exploring a [community funded fibre solution](#), BT has a dedicated team focused on helping communities understand how BT can help bring fibre to their local area. Other providers such as [Virgin Media](#) are also seeking expressions of interest to expand their network.



helping you do more



Take-up Success

More people in Cheshire are signing-up for high-speed fibre broadband than ever before thanks to the work of Connecting Cheshire. Our most recent monthly average figures show the number of homes and businesses using the faster connections in the Connecting Cheshire roll-out areas doubled in the past 18 months with 35% signed up to a fibre broadband package compared to 17% just a year and a half ago.

Take-up in Cheshire has been one of the highest in the UK and has helped generate over £3m 'gainshare' that is being reinvested back into the Connecting Cheshire roll-out to fund more coverage.

One area that has seen significant additional coverage is Northwich, where 13 new roadside cabinets have now been installed covering some 1,250 homes and businesses. In some areas of the town take-up has been over 80% to date and rising! Cutting the ribbon on the latest cabinet in Northwich were: Graham Evans MP for Weaver Vale, joined by Tony Morgan, Contract Director BT Group, and local ward Councillors Helen Weltman, Sam Naylor and James Pearson, see above right.



Watch

Shooting and sharing videos has never been so easy, with a wide selection of mobile apps available to film, edit and share your footage. From smartphone versions of, desktop video-editing software to inventive new tools for the Instagram generation of social sharers. See the top [20 video apps here](#).

Data

The average UK fixed broadband line used a whopping 82 GB of data per month in 2015 a 41% increase from June 2014.

Connect

A typical adult spends an average of 25 hours online per week, with nearly half (42%) saying they go online or check apps more than 10 times a day, the latest [Ofcom](#) research suggests.

Digital Champion Prize Draw



As one of the official sponsors of Stage 3 of the Tour of Britain on 6th September we have a pair of tickets for the VIP enclosure at the finish line to give away to one lucky winner.

To enter, simply e-mail your name and contact details to info@connectingcheshire.org.uk before the closing date Monday 29th August. Good luck!

Come and see us at:

Tour of Britain

Tuesday 6th September

At the start in Congleton or finish line at Tatton Park

