



December 2016

All wrapped up for Christmas...



Former Chancellor George Osborne MP for Tatton cut the ribbon in Wincham at the Pickmere cabinet 3 ceremony. He said: "I've been a huge supporter of getting high-speed broadband for my constituents. It allows people to work where they want and brings entertainment and knowledge to people and families at home. It's no exaggeration to say that it is an essential part of modern life. This project is vital for the local, and indeed national, economy."

We recently held switch-on events in Wincham and Bunbury to celebrate the arrival of additional fibre coverage across the Bunbury and Pickmere exchange areas. By coincidence both areas have now each seen over 1,300 premises reached with fibre since the project began.



See what Superfast fibre broadband could bring you with our [12 days of Fibre video](#)

Latest cabinet areas to join the fibre fast lane...



Bollington 12, Bunbury 1 & 2, Chelford 7, Great Mollington 4, Ellesmere Port 41, 54 & 57, Mickle Trafford 3, Middlewich 20, Mobberley 3, North Rode 4 & 5, Northwich 12 (pictured right), Pickmere 3, Warrington 11, 87 & 97, Widnes 80.

To check if your area has been upgraded please visit our website and use the ['check availability'](#) link.



Project Update

At the time of writing we had reached over 92,000 premises with fibre as part of our Phase 1 and 2 roll-outs, and installed over 600 new cabinets and fibre distribution points. When combined with commercial providers' coverage such as BT and Virgin, this equates to an average of 92% of Cheshire premises now able to access a superfast speed, classed by the government as 24 Mbps or above. For more information on local and national broadband coverage we recommend the [thinkbroadband.com](http://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/uk) site where you can search by your region, postcode, constituency or local council area. <http://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/uk>

Current Status Phase 1 is almost complete, although later than we had hoped for, with 10 cabinets remaining out of almost 500. Phase 2 is well underway with nearly 90 cabinets now live out of a planned 199. We expect to complete Phase 2 in summer 2017 and also the remaining cabinets from Phase 1 also.

Phase 3 We were hoping to be able to announce the areas covered in this phase before the end of the year, unfortunately further internal governance is required to sign-off the contract with BT, so we hope to publish this in early 2017 combined with public drop-in information events thereafter. This phase is based on a £3.4m 'gainshare' agreement with BT whereby revenue from increased take-up is reinvested in additional coverage.

Phase 4 An application to the Department for Communities & Local Government for a £11m Phase 4 project is being reviewed, and subject to approval we hope to be able to commence the procurement process early in the new year to appoint a delivery partner for this phase to reach more 'not spots'. We also hope to provide a further business support programme and business connection vouchers as part of this phase.

Fibre Facts
Since 2013...

- 2,500 blockages cleared
- 1,000 miles of fibre-optic cables installed
- 350 miles of roadworks
- 80 switch-on events held
- 500 wayleaves secured

Autumn Statement Update

We are yet to see full details, but the Chancellor announced a £1bn investment fund to support the private sector to roll out more full-fibre broadband by 2020-21 and funding to support initial trials of 5G mobile communications. Plus from April 2017, the government will also provide new 100% business rates relief arrangements for new full-fibre infrastructure for a 5 year period. More details are available from page 28 onwards of the full [Autumn Statement](#).

Better Broadband Scheme

The government has made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service. The [Better Broadband Scheme](#) offers eligible premises a subsidised community fibre, satellite or wireless broadband installation if you cannot access an affordable broadband service and currently have a speed of less than 2Mbps. The subsidy comes in the form of a £350 voucher to use with one of the approved suppliers. Apply via the link above.

