



February 2017

Phase 3 (Gainshare) roll-out announced

Many more communities in Cheshire are set to benefit from the roll-out of superfast broadband – thanks to strong demand for the high-speed fibre technology by households and businesses.

Over 40% of premises in the Connecting Cheshire area have already chosen to switch to fibre, triggering a 'Gainshare' award under the terms of the contract with BT to be used to further extend the fibre roll-out. More than 6,000 premises have just been added to the Connecting Cheshire phase three roll-out plans for 2017 and 2018. As a result of the high take up there is a Gainshare contribution of £3.34m, making a total of £4.3 million including a further BT Investment.

It is expected that around 5,400 of the 6,000 premises will receive superfast speeds of more than 24Mbps and the work is projected to be completed by summer 2018. Maps are available giving an indication of the proposed coverage. It should be noted that detailed surveys and planning have yet to be completed, so this information, together with any timescales, may be subject to change.

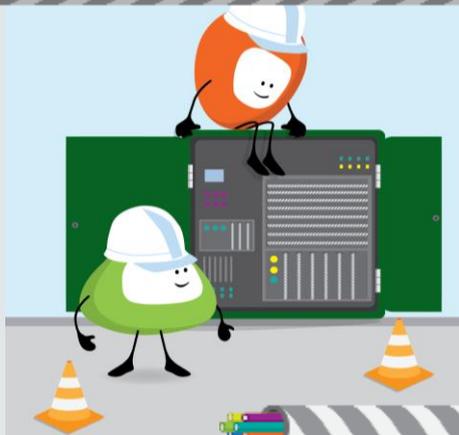
Proposed coverage includes Mottram St. Andrew, Swettenham, Aston near Frodsham, Hatton near Warrington and Manor Park in Halton. For the full media release and the latest maps see [here](#) and FAQs overleaf.

Three public drop-in briefing events on the roll-out will be held:

6th March – Tarporley Village Hall, CW6 0AY; 5 – 7pm

8th March – Orford Centre, Warrington, WA2 8HE; 5 -7pm

16th March – Holmes Chapel Library, CW4 7AP; 5 – 7pm



Latest cabinets areas to join the fibre fast lane:

Bollington 4, Church Minshull 1, Lower Withington 62, Malpas 1, Manor Park 5 & 8, Marton Heath 5, North Rode 5, Prestbury 9, Runcorn East 27, Sandbach 25, Smallwood 1, Warrington 99, Westwood 5.

For advice on how to check availability and switch to fibre see [here](#).

Case Study: Supreme Visors

“Before we were able to switch to fibre it was as if our broadband was coming down a piece of wet string – now its ten times faster and helping us to grow the business by 15% already” Paul Ferguson, Managing Director

Based in Halton near Runcorn, Supreme Visors are a design and manufacturing business specializing in world-class safety headwear, helmets and visors, including mine clearance helmets for the UN and the internal reinforced liners for police helmets and hats for the Royal Navy.



Prior to fibre being available on their industrial estate, the slow and unreliable broadband speed was a huge problem for the company. It was becoming impossible to share documents with customers, suppliers and even their IT support company. Paul explains more: “Frankly it was embarrassing, not only were we missing out on orders, we had to constantly find ways to work around the broadband problems, however since we switched its been a complete transformation; we are now able to fully exploit the cloud for our accounting software, we can share files quickly with customers and update our website with ease - it really has made the difference and given us a much more rapid growth rate!”



Phase 3: Frequently Asked Questions

How do we determine who benefits from the roll-out?

- Firstly, we only focus on those areas with poor broadband speeds – this is governed by State Aid legislation and involves consultation with the telecommunications market regarding their commercial plans over the next 3 years.
- The areas with poor broadband speeds, referred to as ‘white areas’ or ‘not spots’ are then shared with BT for modelling to find the best value solution to benefit as many residents and businesses as possible.

When will I know if I’m going to be connected?

- The project will connect a further 5,400 premises with superfast broadband by summer 2018. BT Openreach will now begin the job of surveying the infrastructure and optimising the deployment plan.
- Once an area is completed we will notify your local representatives and BT’s broadband checker will be updated and orders can be placed to switch; we will also announce updates via social media.

This seems more of the same – what about the hardest to reach rural communities most in need?

- Phase 3 is based on returned monies from our initial contract with BT being reinvested to go even further. To date we have seen over 92,000 homes and businesses receive better broadband across Cheshire to boost growth and productivity. This project will allow even more to benefit.
- Connecting the most rural communities is very costly and complex. The recent Ofcom ‘Connected Nation’ report suggests the final 1% of premises could be upward of £5,000 each, compared to this Phase, which is expected to average around £620 per premise, nevertheless a significant investment per premise.
- We are committed to reach 100% of our residents with faster broadband, and are working on an application for a Phase 4 roll-out which will focus on the remaining homes and businesses, which are the most rural and difficult to connect. Subject to funding approval, we hope to commence Phase 4 later in 2017.
- In the meantime, other options such as our [Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme](#), whereby a £350 subsidy is available towards other solutions such as wireless or satellite broadband if your speed is under 2Mbps; plus via a [BT’s community funded](#) scheme or to lobby providers such as [Virgin Media to ‘Cable my Street’](#).

