

Connecting Devon and Somerset

Stakeholder Briefing February 21, 2020



Programme achievements

Nearly **1 million** homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset now have access to superfast broadband thanks to the CDS programme and stimulation of the commercial market -- an important part of CDS' role.

Over **300,000** homes and businesses have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS

CDS has delivered superfast access to the **largest number of homes and businesses** of any programme in England and cost per premise is in **lowest quartile**. *Source: BDUK*

Total coverage across the CDS area is around **90%***.

***Total coverage = CDS-funded + commercially-funded.**

Superfast coverage delivered by CDS is as high as **82%** in deeply rural areas — compared with the average 33% that Government estimated the public sector would need to fund.

Take-up of CDS-funded broadband services is nearly **65%** compared with a national average of 61.4% and that is **generating millions of pounds of new money** to invest in expanding the CDS coverage thanks to the Government's "clawback" agreement with BT. *Source: BT*

CDS contracts with **Airband** are due to deliver superfast access to around **21,000 homes and businesses** in deeply rural areas of Central, North and West Devon, Torridge and Dartmoor and Exmoor by the end of 2020.

Since the inception of the CDS programme, over a **250,000 miles of optical fibre** has been laid to connect rural communities – **enough to circle the Earth ten times**.

CDS has launched a successful **Community Challenge Fund** pilot working with communities in Devon and Somerset to co-produce superfast solutions that work best for best for local people and businesses. More communities will benefit in 2020/21.

www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk

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