



Programme Update

Torridge

Torridge is benefiting from the roll-out of the Connecting Devon and Somerset Fibre Extension Programme which will bring **full fibre** connections to thousands of homes and businesses by the **end of 2021**.

The programme is being delivered under separate contracts to CDS by **Airband** and **Openreach**.

2,945 homes and businesses in Torridge will receive access to full fibre from Airband.

This means that even if residents only require a Superfast (30Mbps) connection now, from day one it is capable of Ultrafast (100Mbps) or Gigabit (1,000Mbps) speeds when they require it.

The contracts are also for **open access** which means other internet service providers (ISPs) can provide their content over the new networks.

CDS' collaboration with Openreach is made possible through the Government's "Gainshare" agreement with the company, under which increasing public take-up of broadband delivered through the first phase of the CDS programme generates additional funds for reinvestment in new broadband networks.

CDS is aiming to deliver connections to particularly hard to reach villages and hamlets and deprived rural areas.

The roll-out places CDS in the vanguard of the Government's ambitions to build a Gigabit capable network across the UK.

Summary of current and planned broadband coverage

- Total premises: 34,968 (*i.e. the number of homes or businesses in the area*)
- CDS superfast achieved: 17,559
- **CDS gigabit-capable planned: 2,945***
- Commercial superfast achieved: 12,335
- Commercial planned: 2
- Current total delivered: 29,894 (85.49%)
- **Total delivered and planned: 32,841 (93.92% up 8.43%)**
- Remaining: 2,127

*CDS gigabit-capable planned includes:

- 2,945 premises will get full fibre by **Airband** under the CDS Fibre Extension Programme.

Rural Gigabit Vouchers

In parallel with these initiatives, CDS works closely with Building Digital UK (BDUK) to expand take-up of the Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher programme. CDS offers support to communities who wish to contract with telecoms providers to design and shape bespoke broadband solutions for their areas. CDS will provide additional financial support where appropriate through its Community Challenge Programme to help bridge any local funding gaps.

In Torridge, to date:

- **13 vouchers with a value of £35,200 have been issued.**
- **7 premises have been connected.**

NB May include a mix of new connections and upgrades.

CDS has delivered connectivity to more homes and businesses than any other broadband programme in England. *Source: DCMS*

Nearly one million homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset now have access to superfast broadband. Of these, over 300,000 homes and businesses have access to superfast broadband as a direct result of investment by CDS.

The Connecting Devon and Somerset programme is expected to deliver an £800 million boost to the regional economy. *Source: UK Broadband Impact Study, SQW*

CDS is one of the most cost-effective programmes in England with costs per premise in the lowest quartile nationally. *Source: BDUK.*

Take-up of CDS funded broadband services is nearly 70% compared with a national average of 61.4%, an increase of circa 5% over the last quarter. *Source: BDUK*

For more information go to <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/>

Connecting Devon and Somerset

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December 23, 2020