

BDUK Q+As for Local Bodies on how eligible premises could use Better Broadband Subsidy Code to take advantage of BT Community Fibre Scheme

Can suppliers aggregate a group of eligibility codes?

Yes, but the suppliers are required to be able to install a service within a 28 day period from an order being received (consumers also have a 30 day period to place an order once they have been issued with a code). So suppliers can't target a community for an infrastructure build and group together the codes if they cannot then provide a service within the 28 day period.

Is BDUK encouraging aggregation of codes?

No. It is entirely for the customer to decide how to use their code with any of the suppliers on the scheme. The scheme's purpose is to make available access now (or within 28 days).

How does the process work for BT Community Fibre Partnerships?

The BT Community Fibre Partnerships scheme has been onboarded as a supplier on the basis that it can deliver coverage to eligible sub 2Mbps premises. As for any other supplier, delivery would need to be achieved within 28 days of customers placing an order. It would be up to BT to sequence this with the build programme for a Community Fibre Partnerships project.

How would BT propose to implement the scheme?

BT propose that they would work with communities as they are already doing. Once a community has agreed that they wish to proceed with the partnership BT will plan the infrastructure deployment and provide final details of the confirmed costs to the community. Once BT have completed the main infrastructure work, residents and businesses will make an application under the scheme for a code. This code will then be claimed by BT and used as the final contribution (by the premises) for the connection - this will (in most circumstances) lead to a superfast fibre service being installed at the premises (either FTTP or C depending on structure delivered).

BT are aware that the subsidy is premises specific and will require each household or business to make an application then choose to take the service from BT. BT are also aware that a customer is free to choose ANY supplier to deliver their service and do not need to choose BT if they do not wish to.