

**SUPERFAST SURREY FIBRE BROADBAND PARTNERSHIP
MORE THAN 75 PER CENT COMPLETE**

Superfast Surrey has successfully completed more than three quarters of its fibre broadband roll-out programme across the county. Thanks to the Superfast Surrey project, cabinets serving more than 68,000 homes and businesses across the county have been connected to the high-speed technology.

The project aims to reach more than 80,000 premises which fall outside the private sector's commercial plans. In order to deliver the roll-out the Superfast Surrey project will:

- Deploy around 391,800 metres of fibre cable - this is greater than the distance from Banstead to Blackpool!
- Upgrade more than 30 rural telephone exchanges across the county to fibre broadband which otherwise would not be covered by commercial plans.
- Install more than 620 green street-side cabinets, with more than 490 deployed to date.

Peter Martin, Surrey County Council's Deputy Leader, said: "The benefits are considerable economically and socially with Surrey's economy being boosted by an estimated £30 million annually and homes getting fast, reliable internet access. Reaching the latest milestone means that tens of thousands more Surrey businesses and residents can enjoy the benefits in a way they would not have been able to otherwise and now we'll press ahead with the rest of the project to reach areas not covered commercially."

Bill Murphy, BT Group's managing director of next generation access, said: "Today's announcement is another important milestone for a partnership which is making real progress. Working with our partners, we are able to bring this popular technology to locations where the economics and engineering challenges are that much greater. High-speed fibre broadband is increasingly important if local households and businesses are to make the most of the huge range of opportunities offered by the internet, whether they are seeking to start a new business, find new customers, undertake on-line training or simply wish to browse for entertainment or leisure purposes."

Engineers for Openreach, BT's local network business, are building the new fibre broadband infrastructure. Fibre to the Cabinet will be the main technology deployed. This can deliver wholesale downstream speeds of up to **80Mbps, and upstream speeds of up to 20Mbps. Fibre to the Premises technology – delivering ultra-fast wholesale speeds of up to 330Mbps – will also be deployed in certain areas.

The technology will boost the competitiveness of local businesses, helping them to find new customers and operate more efficiently, whilst opening up a host of new learning and development opportunities for households.

People using fibre broadband are able to use multiple bandwidth-hungry applications at the same time and send and receive large amounts of data much more quickly and efficiently. New fibre services are set to transform the way households use the internet, from the simple sharing of pictures and video and on-line training and research to enjoying the growing boom in entertainment services available on-line.

For local businesses, the fibre network will underpin the introduction of many new services and applications. Big business applications driven by new 'cloud' services will be within the reach of enterprises of all sizes. Computer back up, storage and processing will be faster, and the use of high-quality videoconferencing will become viable.