



SUPERFAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Update on the delivery of Superfast Broadband in Northamptonshire: December 2011

This is the fourth newsletter produced by Northamptonshire County Council on the superfast Northamptonshire initiative. This edition includes confirmation of Government sign-off of Northamptonshire’s Local Broadband Plan and details of the Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF)

Contents include:

- BDUK ‘Green Light’
- E-Petition results
- Rural Community Broadband Fund Update on BT roll-out plans

Superfast Northamptonshire aims to enable superfast broadband to be accessed by all residential and business properties in Northamptonshire.

Our objectives are:

>By 2014, two thirds of premises able to access broadband speeds in excess of 30mb/s

> By 2015, 9 out of 10 premises able to access speeds in excess of 30mb/s and all premises able to access a minimum requirement of 2mb/s

> By 2015 fibre to the premise should be available for all newly built homes and businesses in the county

> By 2017 all homes would have access to Superfast broadband services

BDUK ‘Green Light’

The county is a step closer to its aim of having complete coverage of superfast broadband after the Government announced its approval of Northamptonshire County Council’s strategy to implement the work. Northamptonshire is one of only six areas in the country to have its plan signed-off.

The approval means that the County Council can press ahead with work to find a private sector telecommunications partner to co-invest in new technology.

This will look to enable more than 70,000 residential and business premises in the more rural parts of the county (these are known as Market 1 areas) to access superfast broadband. It will do this by inviting tenders from the remaining companies on the BDUK framework. This process is programmed to start in May.

BDUK has allocated £4.08m for this project and the County Council has earmarked the same amount. This was essential to secure Government approval for the strategy and the BDUK funding. It is expected that significantly more will be invested by



the private sector partner.

It is anticipated that work could begin on the ground by the end of 2012. In the meantime, more work is needed to register demand for superfast broadband to ensure that Northamptonshire is viewed by the telecommunications industry as an attractive place to invest.

Between now and May Northamptonshire County Council have to organise a market and public consultation. This is necessary to provide the industry with the necessary data on potential demand to inform their bid.

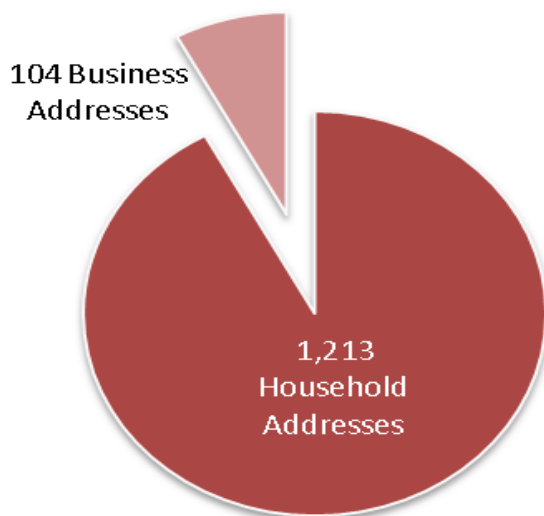
More information on these will be in the next newsletter and updates will be available on the blog-site.

E-petition

One way to support the bid and its progress is to sign our online 'e-petition'. This quick to complete petition asks local residents and businesses to sign up and "Back the Bid" to deliver superfast broadband to Northamptonshire. To date over 1,400 signatures have been received

The results of this e-petition have been used to support the sign off of the superfast Northamptonshire Local Broadband Plan. Please continue to sign the petition as this helps to strengthen the business case for enabling your area to access superfast broadband. You can sign the petition [here](#)

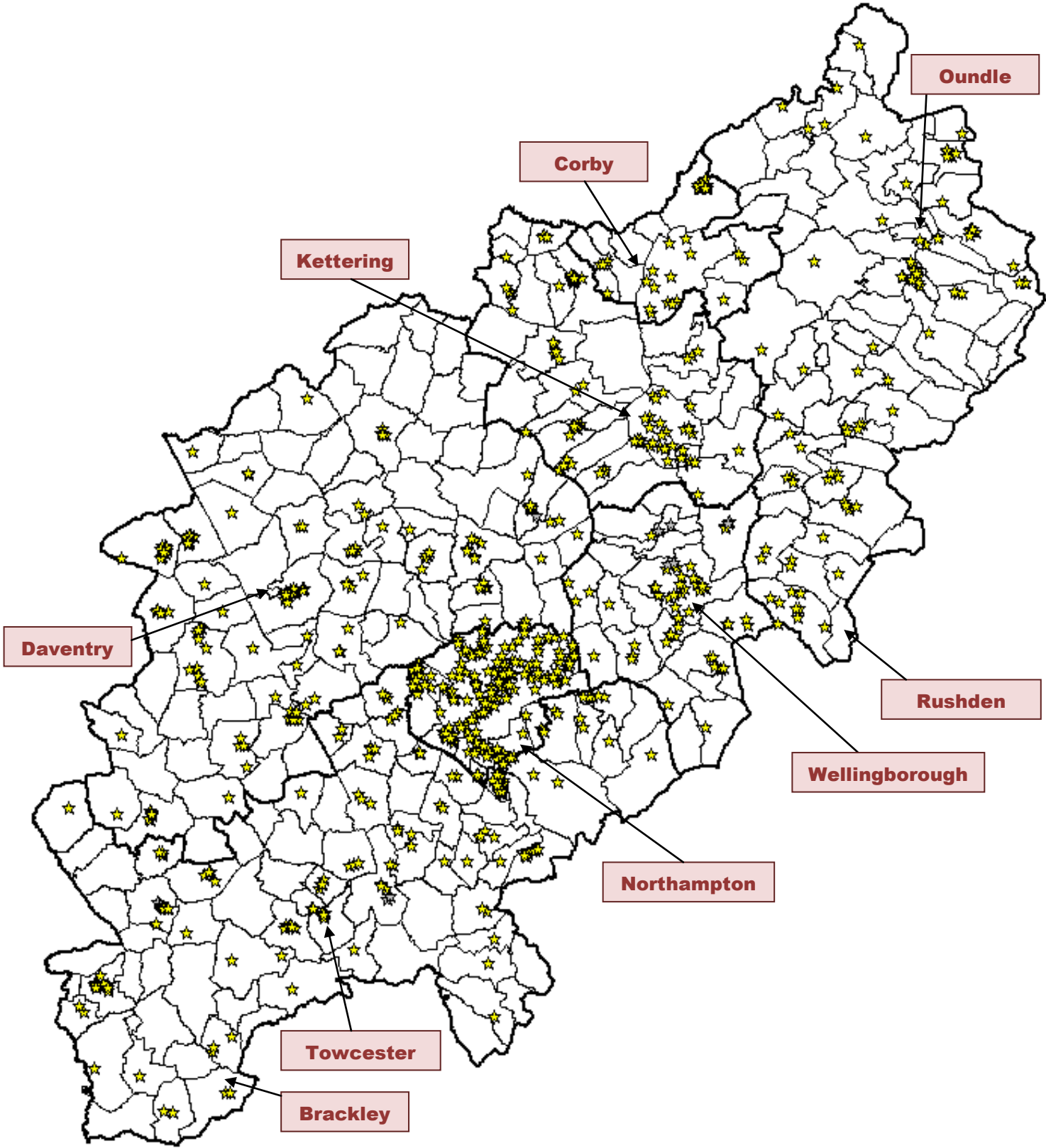
The map below shows the current pattern of signatures across the county (at December 2011).



The responses we received included:

The e-petition indicates that 99.6% of respondents would sign up to faster broadband.

Epetition Results



Rural Community Broadband Fund

In parallel with this process, the Government has launched a Rural Community Broadband Fund (RCBF). This is aimed at local communities in the hardest to reach areas (what Government terms 'the final 10%') and who receive poor broadband coverage.

The RCBF has funding of £20m and is now open to Expressions of Interest.

You can apply if your community is identified as being in the 10% hard to reach area covered by the Local Broadband Plan (LBP), this can be found by contacting the County Council's Broadband Delivery Team.

Acting on behalf of a community, eligible applicants can be:

- > Social enterprises
- > Community Interest Companies
- > Community trusts
- > Charities
- > Private Businesses (non-ISPs)
- > Other formally constituted groups

The RCBF will provide up to 50% of total 'eligible costs' to communities who can demonstrate a local need and a demand for superfast broadband, and the ability to make it happen at a reasonable cost.

"Eligible costs' would include:

- Capital works costs
- Facilitation and technical support costs
- Other service establishment costs, but not ongoing maintenance costs.

Further information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

The BDUK web page, containing links to a useful online toolkit is also available [here](#).

There has already been good interest in this initiative. If you would like to know whether your area is in the final 10% please contact the Broadband Delivery Team on the details below.

Alternative Technologies

For households, communities or businesses in the hardest to reach areas which have very poor broadband coverage, and are looking for an immediate solution, Satellite technology can provide an option.

For more information please see some Satellite providers below:

Avanti

<http://www.avantiplc.com/>

Sky Logic

<http://www.eutelsat.com>

Tooway

<http://www.toowaydirect.com>

BT roll-out plans for superfast broadband

Superfast Northamptonshire is not just about the rural areas. It is also about enabling better access to superfast broadband in the urban areas. This is done by working closely with both existing and new telecommunications providers to encourage investment in new technology and in particular fibre to the cabinet and, wherever possible, fibre to the premise.

Recent announcements from BT have confirmed that the Kettering Exchange is due to be upgraded in 2012. This means that more than 17,000 households and businesses in Northamptonshire are poised to benefit from super-fast broadband as part of a major expansion of BT's roll-out plans.

This takes the number of Northamptonshire homes and businesses being passed by BT's roll-out to around 170,000.

Further details about the upgraded exchanges in Northamptonshire are available [here](#).

Communities receive upgrade to copper lines.

BT announced today that another 24,000 Northamptonshire homes and businesses will have access to faster broadband by the Summer of next year.

Braunston, Irthlingborough, Kislingbury, Rothwell, Weedon, Rockingham, Brixworth, Crick and Middleton Cheney are among 29 East Midlands communities included in the latest roll-out plans for BT's next generation broadband service delivered over copper lines.

The BT investment makes available broadband speeds of up to 20 megabits per second (Mbps) – more than double the maximum speeds previously available to the majority of UK homes and businesses.

For more information visit the blog

Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone

The Waterside Enterprise Zone in Northampton was announced in September. It is important that businesses are able to access superfast broadband and this is part of government's commitment in establishing the Enterprise Zone. Discussions will be taking place to investigate the scope for new investment to improve speeds. This will help existing businesses and support efforts with Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership to attract new companies and jobs to the area.

Further Information

For more information on superfast Northamptonshire please visit the [blog site](#) which has links through to the previous editions of the newsletter. Also it has the latest news from the sector, case study examples and more information on the RCBF.

Next edition

The next edition of this newsletter will be produced early in the New Year.

The County Council thanks you for your continued support for this project.

Useful links

Online E-petition

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/96W7GJZ>

Further information on the RCBF

<http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/rural-community-broadband-fund>

BDUK online toolkit

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/telecommunications_and_online/8661.aspx

BT upgrade plans

<http://www.openreach-communications.co.uk/superfast/where-and-when/>

superfast Northamptonshire Blog Site

<http://www.openreach-communications.co.uk/superfast/where-and-when/>

Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership

www.northamptonshireep.co.uk