

Rural Forum

BDUK Broadband delivery project
Update

Background

- In December 2010, the Government launched the National Broadband Strategy: “Britain’s Superfast Broadband Future”. To ensure the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.
- Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) - the delivery arm for Government, (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) tasked to deliver the Government’s policies relating to broadband rollout within the UK.
- BDUK committed to £530 million available by 2014-2015.
- Funding by BDUK as a capital grant for the Local Authority partners to deliver the broadband investment but needed to be matched by Local Authorities and businesses.

The Strategy seeks to ensure that:

- communities and local authorities to have a say in how these networks will be built.
- putting the people who will eventually use the infrastructure in a position to shape it, community need should drive the process, not government decisions made in Whitehall.
- can bridge the gap between competition and investment.

Thames Valley response:

- led by West Berkshire Council's Chief Executive & the Thames Valley Enterprise Partnership(TVLEP). Supported by via pan Berkshire Local Authority Group.
- a pan-Berkshire bid for government funds to improve broadband provision across Berkshire submitted and approved May 2012 to achieve:
 - 90% super fast broadband coverage
 - download speed of greater than 24Mbps.
 - Universal standard of broadband of least 2 Mbps
 - £1.43 million awarded (to be match funded by LA)
 - £2.91Million to be secured from public sector
- TVLEP Growing Places Fund will front-end bankroll the project (been approved by the LEP Executive)

Next Steps

- Procurement plan being developed with an ambition to have a contract in place with Broadband service providers by 31st December 2012.
- Resource in place for project managing the procurement of providers
- Local consultation Developing a Berkshire Broadband campaign & Website
- Updates/feedback on website '*Superfastberkshire.org.uk*'
- Community engagement/consultation events

