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Winter 2016 News

Welcome to the winter edition of our Superfast Worcestershire newsletter

"As well as continuing to deploy faster broadband across the county we have also welcomed news in the Autumn Statement outlining further investment worth over £1 billion for digital infrastructure, including 5G trials. We are investigating what opportunities this will present for Worcestershire. The importance of improving Worcestershire's digital infrastructure is recognised in our recently launched plan 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future'."

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cabinet Member responsible for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure



With Christmas nearly here we're delighted to announce that over **62,000** premises can now sign up for superfast fibre broadband as a result of the Superfast Worcestershire Broadband Programme. This figure rises to around **245,000** premises when combined with additional commercial investment, and the number continues to rise.

Superfast broadband makes a great gift for Christmas and the good news is it's becoming available to more and more homes and businesses across Worcestershire every week. Please keep checking the cabinet status page on our website for the latest deployment news.

We recently **refreshed our website** so please remember to check any links you have saved are still working.

In this edition of our newsletter, find out:

- How to stay one step ahead of Santa's sleigh
- Which Cotswold community is benefitting from superfast broadband in time for Christmas
- Why Worcestershire children dressed up in onesies to learn about technology
- Why cake is on the menu for Acorns Children's Hospice

and much, much more!



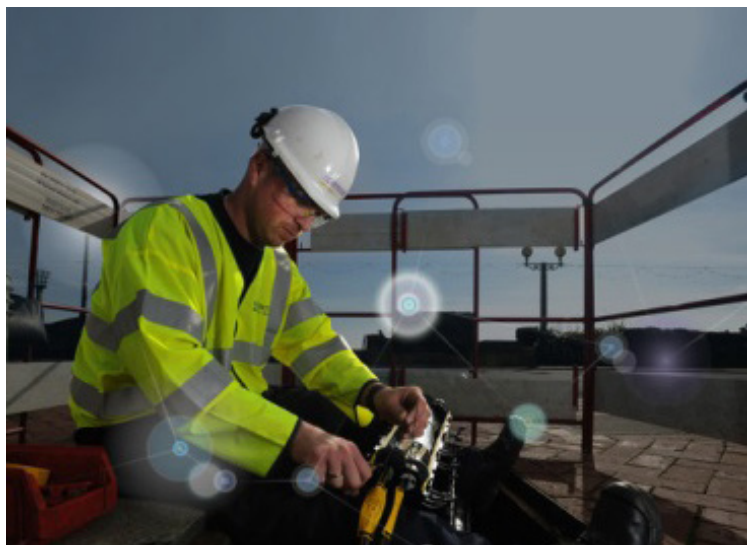
Superfast Worcestershire is a partnership between

Stay one step ahead of Santa's sleigh this Christmas with superfast broadband

With all the benefits a fast, reliable connection can bring, superfast broadband is the perfect gift for homes and businesses this Christmas.

On Christmas Eve Santa's sleigh will be travelling at 650 miles per second, (with Fibre to the Cabinet, superfast fibre broadband offers download speeds up to 80Mbps and upload speeds up to 20Mbps) so with a superfast connection you will certainly stay one step ahead of Santa's sleigh this Christmas.

If you're struggling with slow internet speeds visit our website to find out if superfast broadband is available to you. It's important to remember to contact an Internet Service Provider to upgrade as speeds won't automatically improve.



7 reasons why you should make your Christmas superfast

It's the Christmas gift that keeps on giving - a present that the whole family will love. And, what's more, it doesn't need batteries. Yes, superfast broadband makes a great gift for Christmas - remember to contact an Internet Service Provider to upgrade to the faster service.

One of the beauties of superfast is that it allows everyone at home to do their own thing online, faster, and all at the same time. So, for example, over the Christmas holidays it means the kids can be kept entertained with a festive film while mum or dad hit the New Year sales online or start looking at family holidays for next year.

But remember - superfast is not just for Christmas. You'll never get tired of enjoying the benefits.

Here we offer seven splendid reasons why superfast broadband should be top of your family's Christmas list.



1

Be entertained in an instant

Superfast broadband gives you quick and easy access to all the entertainment you could want. For example, getting up to speed on the week's TV with catch-up services like BBC iPlayer and 4OD is a piece of cake. You can stream movies instantly, using services like BT Vision or Netflix, or download HD films in the time it takes to warm up a mince pie.

2

Bring your gadgets to life

If Santa's left a new game or console in your stocking this year then the blistering speed of superfast broadband makes it the ideal partner. Play uninterrupted against opponents from around the world. Superfast means your games will run like clockwork giving you a fabulous gaming experience.

3

It's brilliant for kids

Apart from all the entertainment possibilities at their fingertips, your children can give their education a real boost thanks to superfast broadband. Researching assignments, accessing online resources, doing homework – it all becomes a doddle.

4

Fancy an easy life?

Then superfast is for you. From managing bank accounts, to shopping for groceries to scanning YouTube for DIY tips, superfast broadband gives you the power to organise your life beautifully from the comfort of your own armchair.

5

Working from home – it's a breeze

The high-speed connectivity offered by superfast means working from home or anywhere remote from the office is always possible. Those faster upload and download speeds make accessing work documents hassle-free. So if you do have to check a few office files over the Christmas break – at least you don't have to travel into the office to do it!

6

It's brilliant for business

Investment in superfast broadband in Worcestershire is expected to give the local economy a massive boost, creating thousands of new jobs and start-up businesses in the next 15 years. It will allow existing firms to operate more efficiently and to develop new products and services and make it easier for new businesses to get started through increasing use of innovations, such as cloud computing.

7

It's great to stay in touch

It's easy to keep in touch with far-flung friends and family around the world that you won't see in person this Christmas. Skype or Facetime calls over superfast broadband, are as smooth as that first glass of mulled wine on Christmas Eve.



Superfast Worcestershire spreads Christmas cheer by bringing fibre broadband to Cotswold community

Father Christmas, Nigel Huddleston MP and carol singing youngsters joined representatives from the broadband partnership to spread some seasonal cheer and to mark the arrival of faster fibre broadband in the Smallbrook Road area of Broadway.

Pupils from Broadway First School led carol singing around the new fibre broadband cabinet in Leamington Road, which is the 400th to go 'live' as part of Superfast Worcestershire.

The MP for Mid Worcestershire, Nigel Huddleston, welcomed the news. He said: "Superfast broadband has been delivered to this part of Broadway in time for Christmas not by Santa's sleigh but by Superfast Worcestershire. This is a great Christmas present for local residents."

Faster fibre broadband is now available to around 50 additional local homes and businesses in the Cotswold community.



Worcestershire children brought up to speed on the latest superfast broadband technology

Worcestershire youngsters dressed up in onesies for the day - for an unusual lesson in information communications technology from our programme.

The children, who attend Bredon Hancock's Endowed Church of England First School, were learning about some of the technology behind the Superfast Worcestershire programme. The multi-million pound roll-out of fibre broadband is using a range of technologies to ensure as many properties as possible are able to access faster fibre broadband. As well as the conventional fibre broadband road-side cabinets, Superfast Worcestershire is also building around 80 'all-in-one' cabinets, known as 'onesies', which are used to connect some of the county's more remote communities to the fibre network, including parts of Bredon.



The children were given an insight into how the technology works by an apprentice from Openreach, BT's local network business. They were joined by Councillor Adrian Hardman and representatives from the Superfast Worcestershire partnership.

Mrs Melanie Millar, the head teacher, said: "The internet plays such an important part in learning nowadays - in the classroom and at home - and it's great for our students to be given this unusual insight into how it all works. It's great news that faster fibre broadband is becoming more widely available thanks to the Superfast Worcestershire roll-out."



How to obtain a better service when superfast broadband isn't available to you

The government has committed to extending superfast broadband to 95% of the UK by December 2017, as well as ensuring that everyone can access a service that provides at least 2Mbps. Coverage of superfast broadband will also continue to develop further beyond 2017. Your local area may be covered, or be soon to be covered, by an existing commercial broadband programme or by Superfast Worcestershire. However, not all homes and businesses are currently scheduled to be covered by commercial or public roll-out plans, and communities which are not included in plans may want to consider developing their own solutions, such as community-led broadband schemes.

Furthermore, the government's Broadband Delivery UK has recently re-launched the Satellite and Basic Broadband schemes as Better Broadband. The new scheme offers a far wider range of technologies to make it easier to obtain faster speeds in hard to reach areas.

If you aren't able to upgrade to superfast broadband and currently receive speeds of less than 2Mbps please **visit our website** for more information on obtaining a better broadband service.



Affinity Car Leasing in the fast lane after upgrading to superfast broadband

Affinity Leasing, based in Worcestershire's Wyre Forest, provides discounted vehicle leasing to many millions of British unions and associations, companies and individuals. Before upgrading to superfast broadband in September 2016, the business was hindered by slow broadband speeds. Michelle Howles, Marketing Director said: "With a slow connection, we couldn't carry out some functions in the afternoon." With superfast the business now has maximum download speeds of 80Mbps and maximum upload speeds of 20Mbps.

Affinity Leasing placed an order with their Internet Service Provider to upgrade to the faster service as soon as it was available. Michelle continued: "A fast connection is absolutely critical to the business for more than one reason. We will be able to grow the business and access cloud services. We have business partners around the country, and share online graphics and presentations which is great without buffering. Accessing online systems is now much speedier, which is greatly improving productivity and making a huge difference to us."

For more information about Affinity Leasing visit:
www.affinityvehicleleasing.com.



Fibre - and cake - on the menu as Superfast Worcestershire makes special delivery to hospice

Members of the Superfast Worcestershire team took time out from delivering superfast fibre broadband around the county to make a special delivery.

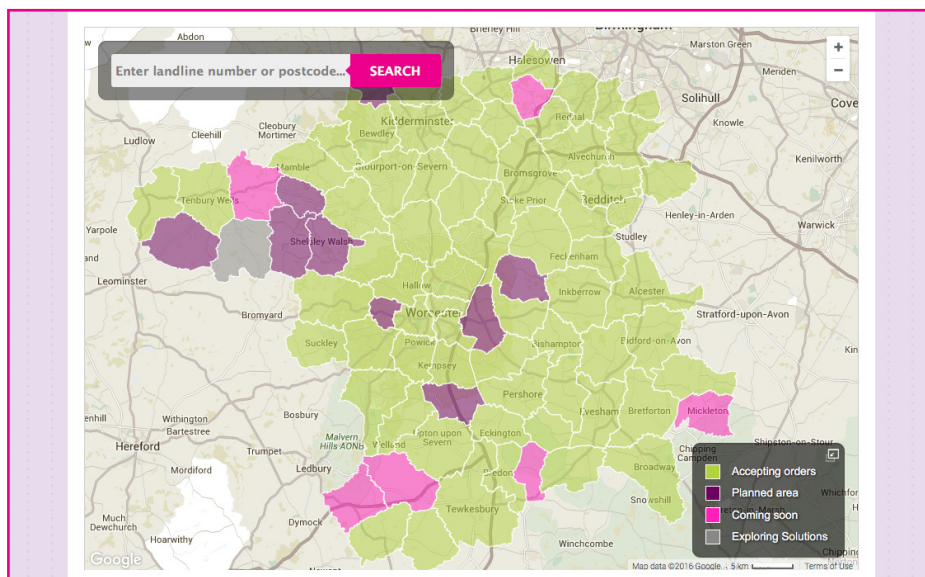
The colleagues presented a special cake in the shape of a cheque to Acorns Children's Hospice - as well as the real cheque for the £700 they had raised in sponsorship from taking part in the Worcester 10k Run - when for once, achieving the best speeds possible was not their top priority!



Keep your finger on the pulse with our interactive map

See at a glance which parts of Worcestershire have already been enabled for superfast fibre broadband, and check whether you can get it yet! Thousands of people across Worcestershire are now able to order the faster service. Our Interactive Map is a fantastic tool that is updated weekly and allows you to keep your finger on the pulse of our exciting programme.

Please help us spread the word and encourage friends and family in Worcestershire to register via our website.



From everyone in the Superfast Worcestershire team - we wish you a fibre Christmas and a superfast New Year!

Thank you for registering your interest in the Superfast Worcestershire Broadband Programme. If you want to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please [click here](#).

Do you have a story about how fibre broadband has helped transform your lifestyle or business for the better? Share it with the Superfast Worcestershire team at: superfast@worcestershire.gov.uk.

www.superfastworcestershire.co.uk



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