



## Phase 2 brings super fast broadband to the Forest of Dean

### What is Fastershire?

*Fastershire* is a partnership between Gloucestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council to bring faster broadband to the two counties. It is funded by the Broadband Delivery UK budget and matched by the local authorities.

### Phase 1

This phase included both commercial delivery (funded solely by private sector funds) and a contract with BT (funded from the above sources), to **deliver faster broadband (above 30Mbps) to a total of 32,961 premises**, consisting of 6841 commercial and 26,120 residential properties.

### Phase 2—The Forest of Dean, North & South Gloucestershire



Beginning early this year, phase 2 brings the *Fastershire* project to more towns and villages in the Forest of Dean. The roll out will be delivered by Gigaclear (who specialise in connecting rural communities) and includes the installation of new fibre to the broadband network, to provide access speeds up to 1000Mbps. Under this contract a further 8129 premises in the District will have access to broadband speeds of over 30Mbps by the end of 2020.

Of the 2879 that will remain at the end of this phase, 2016 properties are part of a bid for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and if successful a contract will be awarded in Spring this year.

### What does Fastershire mean to you?

*Fastershire* is not just about technology. The project also includes social and digital inclusion activities (the ability of individuals and groups to access and use information and communication technologies), that have potential to **revolutionise the way people of all ages across Gloucestershire work, learn and play** and will benefit generations to come.

### Boost your business with faster broadband

The project also includes an extensive business support programme designed to help small and medium sized businesses get the most from their fibre broadband, and as a result become more competitive.

It is expected that *Fastershire* will help to **boost the local economy by over £420m** during the next 10 years.

### Business Grants

Grants are available exclusively for businesses that have yet to access super fast broadband and are not currently in a plan to deliver this. Grants of up to £25k of EU funding are available to access faster broadband.

**For an estimate of when your property or business is likely to be reached, or to find out if your business is eligible for a grant, check your address by visiting:**

**[www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com)**

