



March 2012

Surrey County Council wants to ensure that homes and businesses in Surrey are able to access superfast broadband, no matter where they are located in the county.

This bulletin is circulated monthly to provide an update on progress towards achieving this ambition. Please pass it onto to anyone who is interested in the project. If you would like to be removed from our distribution list please e-mail superfastbbsurrey@surreycc.gov.uk.

2012 so far

We are nearing the end of our competitive dialogue sessions with the short listed bidders. We will soon be asking them to submit their final tenders and feel confident that we will have three good options for Surrey on the table.

This is a market intervention project to facilitate the deployment of superfast broadband infrastructure across parts of Surrey seen as commercially unviable by the private sector. This will allow all residents and businesses in the county to have the option of a broadband package that can deliver download speeds of 24mbps or above.

As the project will be intervening in the commercial market, Surrey County Council



needs to secure European Commission approval before a contract can be awarded to the winning bidder. These 'state aid' regulations are put in place by the EU to protect the competitive market from distortion by the public sector. We are working with central Government to obtain state aid approval at the moment.

Once the final tender from each bidder has been evaluated, the next step will be to obtain Surrey County Council Cabinet approval of the preferred supplier. We are on track to have signed a contract by the end of July this year.

Demand for Superfast Broadband

We were out and about across Surrey in 2011 and have spoken to many different groups about broadband. These conversations, along with the results from the surveys, have demonstrated that the existing broadband networks, particularly in the more rural areas of the county, are not able to meet the needs of residents and businesses in Surrey.

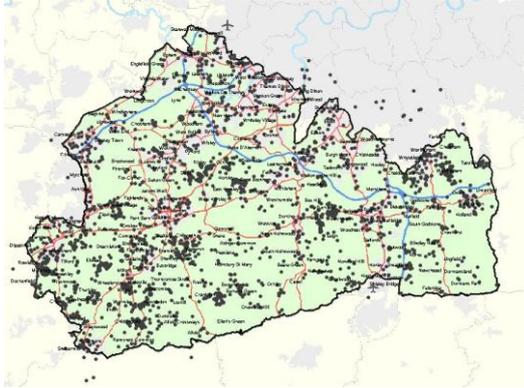
Nearly 3500 of you have completed the survey. Your responses have demonstrated strong support for this project and are crucial to supporting our conversations with the three bidders. This newsletter gives some feedback on the responses to date, however the



survey is still open so if you haven't completed it please go to:

www.superfastsurrey.org.uk

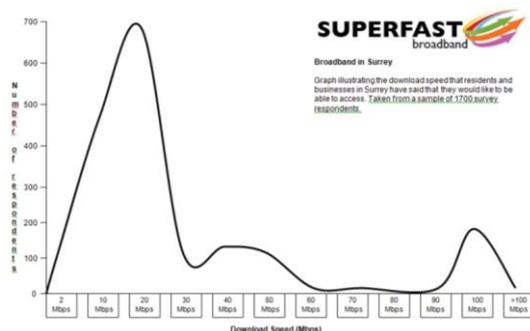
The map illustrates that there is demand for better broadband packages right across the county:



The black markers show the location of those people that have indicated they would like to be able to subscribe to a superfast broadband package.

99% of residents that have responded say that they think it is important for everyone in Surrey have access to good broadband speeds, no matter where they are located in the county. Whilst 98% of businesses say that superfast broadband would benefit them.

The graph below illustrates that the majority of respondents would like to be able to access speeds of between 20-30Mbps. There was also a significant number of you that would like to be able to access 100Mbps and above.



Significantly, over 50% of both business and residential respondents have said that their current broadband service is unreliable. Conversations that we have had with many different groups have

confirmed that the reliability of the connection is just as important as the speed.

22% of business respondents currently pay for more than one broadband line to secure the bandwidth and reliability to meet their business needs.

Business users also confirmed that they need to use their internet connection for a wide range of activities, often simultaneously. These include, connecting to remote offices, data sharing, website creation/editing/design, Voice-Over IP and off-site data storage.

Thank you to everyone that has contacted us, either through the survey or otherwise. Full survey feedback (including the illustrations) will be available on our website – www.superfastsurrey.org.uk

Industry Consultation

SCC has published details of the areas that we believe will not receive access to superfast broadband without the intervention of this project. We are interested in hearing from any broadband suppliers that have definitive plans to deploy superfast broadband infrastructure in these areas within the next three years.

Details of the consultation can be found at www.superfastsurrey.org.uk.

Contact Us

We intend to keep you regularly updated with progress. If you have been forwarded this bulletin and would like to receive future updates directly please email us.

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