



Broadband Programme Update – November 2013

First communities announced

We've just announced that from early 2014, fibre based broadband, with many premises receiving speeds of more than 24 megabits per second (mbps), will start to become available to homes and businesses in Montford Bridge, Montford, Bicton, Ford, Shrawardine, Pontesbury and Minsterley. This is really exciting news for these communities who will be the first to benefit from the programme. In total, around 6,000 premises will get access to fibre based broadband during phase one of the programme, which will also cover the village of Albrighton (between Telford and Wolverhampton) and Harlescott in Shrewsbury.

In January, once remaining survey work has been completed, we'll be able to tell you which other rural communities will benefit from the first phase of the roll-out. In addition, we plan to give more details of exchanges due to get access to fibre during 2014.

Engineering work has begun

In addition to planning and surveying work, engineers from BT openreach have been working to extend the fibre spine infrastructure that connects local telephone exchanges into BT's core network. Here is a picture of Steve Charmley (left of picture), Shropshire Council Cabinet member with responsibility for broadband, meeting openreach engineers out on site to review their progress.

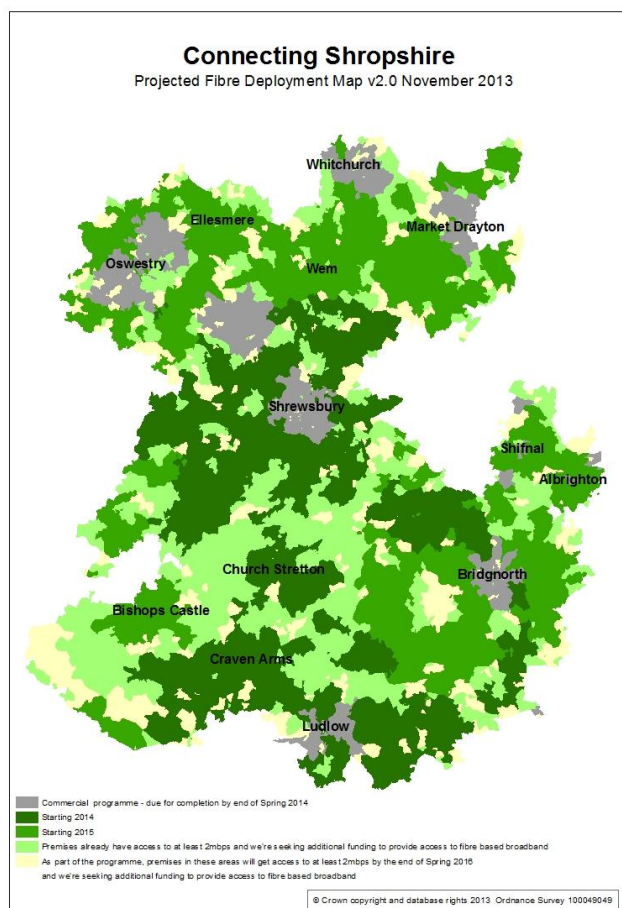


Projected deployment map

Version 2 of the map showing the projected deployment of better broadband in the Connecting Shropshire programme has now been published. The map is also available on the website and can be viewed by [clicking this link](#). If you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet who'd like to be sent a hard copy of the map, please ask them to contact the programme team (details at the bottom of the next page).



As previously, we do stress that **the map is at a high level and is not accurate to premise or postcode level**. As physical inspections of ducts and cabinets are undertaken, our projections will change and we'll update the map accordingly.



The map now provides further information about the 7% of premises in the seeking additional funding areas. These are now marked as light green and yellow areas. Please note that we are still seeking additional funding for premises in these areas:

- Premises in the yellow areas (2% of the total) are currently projected to get access to speeds of less than 2mbps. As part of the programme, we're committed to providing all premises in these areas with access to a network that will provide speeds of at least 2mbps by the end of Spring 2016. We're also seeking additional funding to provide premises in these areas with access to fibre based broadband.
- Premises in the light green areas (5% of the total) already have access to at least 2mbps and we're seeking additional funding to provide access to fibre based broadband.

Getting out and about

As a team, we're often out-and-about across the Shropshire Council area explaining more about the programme and the benefits of fibre based broadband for businesses and communities. If you know of a local group or event that you think we should be attending, please let us know and we'll arrange a visit.

For further information please check the website or get in touch:

Website: www.connectingshropshire.co.uk
 Email: connecting.shropshire@shropshire.gov.uk
 Phone: 01743 252203
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/connectingshrop>
 Facebook: search for 'Connecting Shropshire' or click [here](#)