

Making Kent Quicker: July 2014



The Making Kent Quicker Project is working to bring better broadband to parts of Kent and Medway that would otherwise not benefit from the commercial rollout of superfast broadband services.

This update provides an overview of the work currently underway and where to go for further information.

Kent and Medway BDUK Project



Kent County Council is working with BT and the Government's broadband agency, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), to bring better broadband to Kent.

This means, when combined with existing rollout plans, that:

- at least 95% of all properties in Kent will have access to higher-speed fibre-based broadband infrastructure by the end of 2015;
- every property in the project area will be able to access a broadband service of at least 2Mbps; and
- a minimum of 91% of premises will get superfast broadband of at least 24Mbps.

Despite representing one of Kent's largest infrastructure investments, the project will take less than three years to deliver – and will involve laying 7,000km of fibre the length and breadth of the County. The build, which started in autumn 2013, is due to be completed by the end of 2015.

Latest news

Thousands of properties are now able to access better broadband, thanks to the Making Kent Quicker Broadband Project.

Despite the adverse winter weather, the Kent and Medway 'Making Kent Quicker' project remains on track. As of the end of June, 143 new green cabinets had been installed across Kent, with 136 ready for customers to order service from their chosen ISP. These cabinets collectively serve just over 34,000 properties, with the most recent area benefiting being Otford.

Further detail on how communities and businesses can access the new services is set out overleaf.

Additional information on benefiting areas, including a postcode checker and anticipated deployment plans are also published on www.kent.gov.uk/broadband.

Making Kent Quicker

Here's what you need to do to find out whether your home or business can already benefit from the Making Kent Quicker Project:



First cabinet live launch in Densale, Kent, December 2013.

BT Openreach are making upgraded cabinets available to ISPs as soon as they are ready for service.

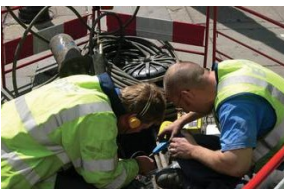
This means that you may be able to place an order before we have been contractually notified with benefiting postcodes and able to publish these on our website.

1. Check out our postcode checker to see what is planned or already available in your area (www.kent.gov.uk/broadband).
2. **If your area is not listed as being covered by a commercial deployment and is in a phase 1 or 2 BDUK project area, check out the list of postcodes on <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband/news> for areas that have already been enabled. Unfortunately, not all premises within identified postcodes will be able to access faster broadband services (see below) and the easiest way to check whether you can receive a service is to try and place an order. Alternatively, you could enter your phone number or address on the BT wholesale website and if one of the featured products lists 'FTTC' (fibre to the cabinet), you should be able to purchase faster broadband services at that address <http://www.dslchecker.bt.com/adsl/adslchecker.welcome>.**
3. **To access the new services you will need to contact your chosen broadband service provider (ISP) and order a fibre-based service upgrade. Please note that not all ISPs will immediately offer a service once cabinets are 'ready for service' and there may be a short delay with your chosen provider. You will also need to be aware of your existing contractual commitments – although most providers will allow customers in existing contracts to upgrade to a fibre package.**
4. **An engineer will then need to visit your property to install the necessary equipment to enable the service. This will include replacing the face plate on the BT master socket and enabling the service at the local fibre cabinet.**

Please note:

Whilst this project is bringing better broadband to many areas that would otherwise not benefit from upgraded services, not all premises in identified postcode areas will be able to order faster fibre-based broadband services. This may be because:

- Some properties are too far away from their nearest street cabinet to benefit from a speed uplift. Where these properties are currently receiving a service of less than 2mb, the Making Kent Quicker Project has funding to look at alternative technical solutions.
- Some postcode areas are split into different delivery phases for this project (look at the postcode checker on www.kent.gov.uk/broadband for more information)
- Properties are not always connected to the nearest street cabinet – your broadband service provider should be able to give you more detail if this relates to you.



Extending the reach of superfast broadband services

Additional BDUK Funding for Kent

Kent County Council is committed to further extending the reach of superfast broadband services. We have secured two additional pots of Government funding to support this work.

1. We are delighted that the Government recently announced additional funding of £5.6 million to extend the reach of superfast broadband services across Kent, under their 'Superfast Extension Programme'. Kent County Council has agreed to match this and we have started working with BDUK to draw down the Kent funding allocation - and agree a procurement strategy to take this project forward. Nationally, the Government hopes that the new funding will ensure that 95% of homes across the Country will get superfast broadband by the end of 2017.

2. In addition, Kent County Council has also been awarded additional BDUK funding of £1.6 million to extend the existing BDUK project and provide further coverage uplifts in parts of Tunbridge Wells and Ashford Borough Councils, Sevenoaks and Shepway District Council areas. This award follows the Defra Rural Community Broadband applications that were taken forward in partnership with District Council teams. We are currently working with BDUK to agree the detail of the additional coverage areas.



For more information, including details on Frequently Asked Questions, please visit www.kent.gov.uk/broadband and click on 'our guide to the project'.

Delivering broadband to the 'hardest to reach places': BDUK Market Testing Pilots

In January 2014, BDUK announced a £10m competitive fund to explore innovative solutions to deliver broadband services in the hardest-to-reach areas of the UK.

BDUK have selected 8 projects worth more than £8 million, including Kent. The pilots will explore how to expand coverage in remote areas, by testing innovative fixed wireless and satellite technologies, a social investment financial model and the aggregation of small networks.

Kent County Council will be working with MLL Telecom, one of the successful bidders, to support the delivery of their project. The precise locations for this work are still to be agreed between MLL and BDUK. The main focus of this work is trialling new technologies to support the delivery of superfast broadband in the hardest to reach areas.

For further information please go to the website:

www.kent.gov.uk/broadband