

**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #15
RURAL GIGABIT VOUCHER LAUNCH - 20th May 2019**

Important Announcement

Rural Gigabit Vouchers

With immediate effect, we are introducing Rural Gigabit vouchers as part of the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (the **Scheme**). Formal details can be found in the updated supplier terms and conditions document (see below). Additional guidance is also available in the supplier area of the Scheme's website.

The following summarises the key characteristics of Rural Gigabit vouchers:

- Up to £3,500 for eligible SMEs
- Up to £1,500 for residents
- Project Pre-registered Packages only (i.e. no Standard PRPs)
- Available in defined "rural" areas (by postcode in all parts of the UK), with existing speeds of <30 Mb/s
- Resident only projects are eligible
- Connections must be Gigabit-capable, with a minimum speed taken by the customer of 30 Mb/s

Funding for these vouchers forms part of the Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) Programme which is a two year, £200 million UK-wide programme focused on rural areas in the UK.

New Scheme Terms

In order to implement these changes, we have revised the existing Supplier Registration and Pre-Registered Package Registration Terms and Conditions documents (previously at v4.1) and merged them into a single new document called Supplier Terms and Conditions v5.0. The Beneficiary Terms and Conditions have also been updated to v5.0. These documents, which are available to download from our website [scheme library](#) are effective immediately (**i.e. from 20th May 2019**).

Subject to the "What to do if you do not accept these changes" section below, the updated Supplier terms supersede and replace all existing Supplier terms with effect from 20 May 2019. However, any new or amended Supplier terms (when compared with v4.1) are effective from 20 May 2019 and do not apply retrospectively.

Appendix One of this bulletin contains summary descriptions of the structure of the new terms, and highlights a number of amendments from v4.1. **Please read these carefully**



along with the updated Scheme terms. The relevant Scheme terms should be regarded as the authoritative source of the Scheme changes.

What to do if you do not accept these changes

In accordance with the terms of the supplier registration document, if you do not accept these changes you may decide to de-register from the Scheme or withdraw one or more of your PRPs. In order to do so, you should send us an email with the subject line “De-register” to LFFNSuppliers@culture.gov.uk . Questions about the changes should also be sent to this address. Please do not use this email address for routine queries about the Scheme as these will not be answered. If you have any questions about the scheme, please contact us using the Support Function when signed in as a user.

Appendix One - Summary of Changes in Supplier Terms and Conditions v5.0

Introduction

We have revised the existing Supplier Registration and Pre-Registered Package Registration Terms and Conditions documents (both at v4.1) and merged them into a single new document named Supplier Terms and Conditions v5.0.

In general, the changes are of a structural nature and have been designed to remove duplication and similar clauses across the two previous documents, and to aid understanding. We have also taken the opportunity to formalise certain aspects of the terms which have been previously announced within supplier bulletins (for example, the announcement in Bulletin #13 regarding voucher top-ups for projects in Wales).

The new outline structure of the terms is set out below:

Section	Comments
Part A: Introduction	Replaces the two "Introduction" sections with v4.1 of the Scheme documents
Part B: Core Terms	An amalgamation/rationalisation of the terms previously contained mainly within "Part A - Terms and Conditions" of the Supplier Registration v4.1 document and Sections 1 and 2 of the Pre-Registered Package Terms and Conditions v4.1 document.
Schedule 1 - Definitions	New schedule which formalises definitions used throughout v5.0
Schedule 2 - Beneficiary Eligibility	Replaces references to SME and Residential eligibility criteria previously contained mainly with Section 2 of the Pre-Registered Package Terms and Conditions v4.1 document.
Schedule 3 - Connectivity Requirements	Replaces "Section 2 - Connectivity Requirements" within the Supplier Registration v4.1 document.
Schedule 4 - Eligible Costs	Replaces "Section 3 - Eligible Costs" within the Supplier Registration v4.1 document.
Schedule 5 - Scheme Marketing and Promotion Protocol	Replaces "Section 4 - Scheme Marketing and Promotion Protocol" within the Supplier Registration v4.1 document.
Schedule 6 - Issue Escalation Procedure	Replaces "Section 5 - Issue Escalation Procedure" within the Supplier Registration v4.1 document.
Schedule 7 - RGC Projects	New schedule which describes the characteristics of Rural vouchers within RGC Projects
Schedule 8 - Additional Funding	New schedule which describes the availability of additional funding for Welsh Projects. Additional funding for other projects may be added to this Schedule in the future.

We would also highlight the following specific changes within the v5.0 terms. **Please note that the table below contains a non-exhaustive list of changes to the supplier terms and the relevant terms should be regarded as the authoritative source of the changes.**



Supplier Terms and Conditions - v5.0	
Pg and Clause Ref:	Notes
Pg 4, clause 3	Revised clause which references “Additional Guidance” (as set out in the various Supplier Bulletins and also the Supplier Guidance document) which suppliers must comply with in addition to the Terms
Pg 5, clause 5.2	New clause which recognises that Scheme registration criteria may be amended (at the Authority’s discretion) for community-based or similar non-commercial organisations
Pg 6, clause 6.3	Revised clause which incorporates guidance within Supplier Bulletin #12 which confirms that Projects will be assessed to ensure that the voucher contribution is not substitutional for normal supplier commercial investment
Pg 6, clause 6.9	Revised clause which provides a non-exhaustive list of considerations taken into account by the Authority when limiting the number of PRPs from a supplier
Pg 7, clause 7.3	Revised clause which confirms that beneficiary contracts should be in writing.
Pg 7, clause 7.8	New clause which provide details of ineligible Premises on the basis of previous (or planned) State Aid interventions (not a new Scheme consideration, but previously contained within Section 3 of the Pre-Registered Package Terms and Conditions v4.1 document).
Pg 8, clause 9.1	Revised clause which sets out the three step process for the request, issue, and payment of vouchers (not a new Scheme consideration, but amended for additional clarity).
Pg 9, clause 9.7.2	Revised clause which clarifies that voucher payments are contingent upon the successful completion of any applicable site audit visit.
Pg 29, Schedule 6, clause 1.1.5	Revised clause which now includes inappropriate supplier behaviour as an issue which will be managed by the Issue Escalation Procedure.
Pg 31, Schedule 7	Sets out the replacement terms which shall apply to vouchers issued as part of RGC Projects.
Pg 32, Schedule 8	Sets out the replacement terms which shall apply to vouchers issued as part of Welsh Projects.