



**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #19
10 September 2019**

Introduction

This is the latest bulletin about the Scheme. It contains an important announcement for suppliers who operate in Kent and who are able to use the Scheme to connect people in rural locations.

Up until the end of August, the Scheme had connected over 11,500 premises supported by vouchers with a value of just over £26.6m. In addition, over 10,000 vouchers - with a value of around £20m - have been issued pending connection. We now have over 900 agreed Project PRPs as part of the Scheme.

Thank you for your help in getting the Scheme to these two important milestones.

Important Scheme Change

Kent County Council - Top-up funds

We can announce that, from today, Kent County Council has made up to £2.8m in additional funding available to the gigabit voucher scheme to increase the maximum value of vouchers for qualifying rural residential beneficiaries in Kent by £1,000 to £2,500.

There is no change to the maximum value of vouchers for business beneficiaries, which remains at £3,500. This change does not apply retrospectively; the terms relating to all existing agreed Project PRPs and vouchers in Kent are unchanged.

This increased funding applies only to:

- Projects in the Kent County Council administrative area which meet the conditions of Rural Gigabit Connectivity part of the Scheme (Schedule 7 of the Supplier Terms and Conditions)
- Residential beneficiaries only in premises more than three years old

The following amendments are made to the Supplier Terms and Conditions (version 5.0).



Insert at Schedule 1 - Definitions:

Kent Projects	Project PRPs benefiting from vouchers under the Scheme which are identified by the Authority as being Project PRPs in Kent;
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Insert at Schedule 8:

	Projects	Additional Funding
2.	Kent Projects	<p>The voucher value for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SME Beneficiaries of RGC Projects in Kent is £500 to £3,500; 2. Residential Beneficiaries of RGC Projects in Kent is £500 to £2,500, provided that the £2,500 maximum voucher value applies only if at the time the voucher is requested (as described in paragraph 9.1.1 above) the property is more than three (3) years old. Otherwise, the voucher value will be £500 to £1,500; 3. SME Beneficiaries in Kent (not involved in RGC Projects) is £500 to £2,500 in accordance with clause 6.5 above; and 4. Residential Beneficiaries in Kent (not involved in RGC Projects) is £500 in accordance with clause 6.7 above, <p>in each case whilst voucher funding remains available.</p>

Revised Supplier and Beneficiary Terms and Conditions (version 5.1) which incorporate the above changes are now in force. Relevant changes have also been made to the Beneficiary Terms and Conditions in a new version 5.1.



If you wish to make contact with Kent County Council to find out more about project opportunities in the county, you can contact them at: KentVoucherScheme@kent.gov.uk

Existing Rural Project PRPs in Kent

Suppliers should be aware that we will only agree to increase voucher values for a published Project PRPs, in line with the Kent top up where there is clear evidence that the increase is justified. This could be where the Project contains eligible costs which would otherwise be funded by the beneficiary, or where it would increase the number of beneficiaries on a Project.

Vouchers that have been issued **cannot** be amended to reflect the Kent Top Up voucher values. Instead, vouchers should be cancelled and a new voucher issued to reflect the agreed amended value. Suppliers are also reminded that vouchers are not transferable.

Further Updates

Sharing Supplier Contact Details with Local Bodies

You will be aware that we work closely with local bodies across the UK to promote the Scheme. They have an important role in working with communities in their areas to help them address connectivity problems for both businesses and citizens. We would like to share the contact details you provided us with as part of your registration with local bodies, so that they are able to work directly with you to promote the Scheme. In order for us to do this we need you to give us your consent. To request your consent, we will write to you shortly to ask you to complete a short data sharing consent form. Full details will be provided as part of the request. Please look out for the email, which will be sent to you from the Government Notify service.

PRP approvals - projects

Suppliers are reminded that the registration of Project PRPs in no way confers exclusivity in any nominated area neither does this registration confirm the availability of funds to support vouchers as part of the Project. Payment of voucher funding is solely dependent upon the delivery of compliant connections to beneficiaries who have agreed to use vouchers for these connections.

Project PRP - address checks

We carry out a two stage check for eligible addresses:

1. the first check is carried out at a **postcode level** when the Project PRP application is submitted;
2. a second check is carried out at **premises** level when vouchers are requested.



Premises level checks for eligibility need to be passed in order for a voucher to be issued.

At the Project **PRP** application stage, postcodes are checked for eligibility against State aid interventions and whether they meet the rural eligibility rules, if appropriate. We will tell you which postcodes appear to be: completely eligible; partially eligible or ineligible. We are not able to provide premises level detail for postcodes which contain partial state aid or rural eligibility properties at the PRP Application stage.

When you request **vouchers** we will check eligibility at premises level. If we reject a voucher request for a specific premises on the basis that it fails one of these tests, and you have evidence which means you believe the premises should be eligible, you may appeal our decision by responding to the dispute email we send you within 5 days.

We set out in Bulletin #17 where the data that allow us to carry out these checks is drawn from. (<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/supplier-self-service/guidance/>). It is our intention to publish a data set of those postcodes which contain eligible premises for rural vouchers in the coming weeks.

Residential Beneficiaries

When you are requesting vouchers on behalf of residential beneficiaries, would be grateful if you could insert the word "Resident" in the **company name field**. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact us using the self-service function when signed in on the website.

Thank you