



**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme  
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme  
Supplier Bulletin #20  
9 October 2019**

## **Introduction**

Up until the end of September the main scheme had connected just under 13,000 premises supported by vouchers with a value of just under £30M. In addition, almost 10,000 vouchers - with a value of around £19m - are issued pending connection. This commits around £49m of the available £67.8M fund.

Around £3.5m from the fund for rural vouchers has been committed since May. The rural vouchers are part of a £200m programme.

We continue to see high demands on the Scheme, and the team is working hard to manage any backlogs. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

## **Bulletin 8 Changes IMPORTANT**

In November 2018, we introduced a number of changes to the Supplier Terms and Conditions some of which had delayed effective dates. Suppliers are reminded that two of these changes will have effect on **7th January 2020**:

- The maximum value of vouchers requested for all GBVS Project PRPs will reduce to £2,500 irrespective of the date of application or approval.
- The voucher contribution to “active” equipment used by broadband suppliers will be capped at a maximum contribution of **£500 per voucher**.

No voucher request will be accepted after 17:00 on 7th January 2020 which exceeds these revised limits, except for RGC Projects.

For the avoidance of doubt, these changes do not do not affect qualifying RGC Projects for which the maximum values remain £3,500 for SMEs and £1,500 for residents.

## **PRP Applications**

Suppliers must be able to demonstrate that the full value of the voucher is passed to the beneficiary by comparison with non-voucher customers. It is therefore a requirement that suppliers have non-voucher customers to whom you have delivered gigabit capable connections. You should note that at our discretion we may seek evidence to confirm this is the case as part of any review of your registration with the scheme or application for a Pre-Registered Package.



### **PRP Change Requests**

We offer the ability for suppliers to request changes to existing PRPs. This mechanism exists in order to resolve minor changes and not to make significant changes to scope or coverage of the PRP. We reserve the right to refuse a change request which we judge to be material or to require a new application to be made at our absolute discretion.

### **Claim Vouchers**

Claiming vouchers before the connection has been delivered is a breach of the scheme terms and conditions. Doing so will trigger the Scheme Issue Escalation Procedure and may lead to your deregistration from the Scheme.

### **Rural Vouchers Eligibility**

Beneficiaries for rural value vouchers must be in a rural location. To define a rural location, we use the Office for National Statistics' (and their equivalents in Northern Ireland and Scotland) definitions and data derived from this to check postcodes. Sometimes, these data disqualify a postcode as "rural" when logic would suggest otherwise. This is because the ONS data is designed for analytical purposes, rather than as an eligibility tool. To address this, we use a second check drawn from DEFRA's rural funding eligibility tools where suppliers challenge the ONS data. This tool is available freely online, but is not simple to use. If you believe we have incorrectly disputed a voucher you have requested on the basis of its rurality only, you should challenge the dispute within 5 days.

The tool may be found here: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> We have uploaded some instructions for its use in the Library area of the Scheme website: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/media/>

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Dynamic Purchasing System Procurement**

This is to notify you that Crown Commercial Services (CCS) have announced a new procurement vehicle to deliver connectivity services (fibre infrastructure and broadband) to the public sector. This opens a procurement publicised in the Official Journal of the European Union, known as an OJEU procurement.

The OJEU Contract Notice for the RM6095 - Gigabit Capable Connectivity Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) has been published on Tenders Electronic Daily (TED).

The DPS is live for bidders to access and apply to join now. Buyer access should be available from the end of October 2019.

The procurement approach has been developed between Crown Commercial Services and DCMS and will establish a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). This has advantages over a traditional framework in that it can be left open for suppliers to join at any time during the life



of the procurement, currently set to be four years. The value being advertised has an upper threshold of £500m.

Some DCMS Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) and Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) funding is likely to go through this route, as may some local body funded projects across the UK, e.g. RGC connections for schools, GP surgeries, and other sites providing local authority funded services, such as libraries, museums and parish halls. LFFN projects considering the DPS include, the Isle of Wight, Plymouth, North of Tyne and Monmouthshire.

The DPS is now available for suppliers to request to participate. If you have not done so before, you will need to register as a supplier with the platform first and then proceed with your request to participate in the DPS.

The CCS [webpage](#) has been updated with the links to the DPS platform, OJEU notice, and Contracts Finder. All relevant documentation can be found on the DPS platform or Contracts Finder.

### **Supplier Webinar**

CCS will be holding a supplier webinar on the RM6095 Gigabit Capable Connectivity DPS application process on **Friday 11th October 1.30pm**

This webinar will provide a brief overview of information available in the Bid Pack available on the [DPS platform](#). There will be no information shared in this webinar that is not already available for suppliers to view.

Topics to be covered are:

- Access of the DPS platform
- Selection criteria
- Grounds for exclusion
- DCMS funding

If you wish to attend please register [here](#).

As a reminder, all clarification questions must be sent via the DPS platform, or to [info@crownccommercial.gov.uk](mailto:info@crownccommercial.gov.uk)