



**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme  
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme  
Supplier Bulletin #25  
6 February 20**

## **Introduction**

Suppliers will be aware that the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (**Scheme**) is part of both the Local Full Fibre Networks (**LFFN**) and Rural Gigabit Connectivity (**RGC**) programmes and benefits from LFFN and RGC funding.

Up until 29 January 2020 the LFFN part of the Scheme had connected over 18,500 premises supported by vouchers with a value of around £42m - an increase of £2m since 18 December 2019. In addition, almost 10,000 vouchers - with a value of around £18m - are issued pending connection. This commits around £60m of the available LFFN £68.5m fund (includes the market test phase fund value).

In addition to the committed £60m, we have a pipeline of projects agreed with a value significantly greater than the remaining £8.5m and for which vouchers are yet to be issued – which is therefore not yet committed. We also have a significant number of Project PRP applications pending review. We review PRP applications in date order and have a backlog of some weeks. Clearly, this fund is nearing full commitment. We will communicate our closure plans for this part of the Scheme shortly.

The RGC programme has committed around £10.1m of vouchers up until 29 January 2020. The rural vouchers are one element of the £200m RGC programme.

Suppliers are again advised (as in Bulletin #24) to divert their attention to developing rural projects from which their customers are now more likely to benefit as part of the Scheme.

### **Project PRPs - premises previously ineligible for RGC which qualify post 16th January scheme updates**

Following the relaxation of the current available speed eligibility threshold from 30mbps to 100mbps, announced in Bulletin#24, there are a small number of Project PRPs that now contain premises which were previously only eligible for the GBVS (LFFN) funding and could now qualify for RGC vouchers. For these PRPs, we will only consider change requests for increased voucher values where the increase replaces (eligible) costs the beneficiaries had previously agreed to make. Any requests must include evidence that the beneficiaries previously agreed to make a financial contribution to the cost of connection.

Vouchers which have been validated (accepted) by the beneficiary cannot be amended.



Suppliers are reminded that none of the changes we introduced in Supplier Bulletin#24 apply retrospectively. We will monitor supplier cancellation of vouchers in respect of Project PRPs which are affected by this change in eligibility.

### **Scheme Changes - Clarifications**

Suppliers have asked: in the context of the "100mbps available" change, how the Scheme defines "available":

"Available means that a network has been deployed that could serve a consumer's end premise capable of delivering speeds greater than 100mbps and where the consumer would expect to pay a standard installation charge for that connection."

We can also confirm that a "standard installation charge" greater than £500 remains eligible. Any premise with an existing leased line solution is not eligible.

Any request to change an existing PRP will invoke the Scheme Terms and Conditions in effect at that time - currently version 5.2. The Scheme Terms and Conditions should be read subject to the above clarifications. We intend to include the clarifications in the next version of the Scheme Terms and Conditions.

### **Scheme Changes - Effective Date Reminder**

You are reminded that - as described in Bulletin#24 - from **noon on 31 January** we will not accept voucher requests associated with **Standard** PRPs for any premises where broadband speeds >100mpbs is available. Any vouchers requested which do not meet this rule will be disputed and cancelled unless evidence is provided that confirms that our data is incorrect within 10 working days of the dispute.

### **Requesting vouchers without permission from the beneficiary**

Suppliers are reminded that as set out in Part B, 9.2 of the Supplier Terms and Conditions, it is a breach of the Scheme rules to request vouchers without the relevant consent from the beneficiary. Doing so will lead to the initiation of the Scheme Issue Escalation Procedure.

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