



**Local Full Fibre Networks Programme
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #37
15 July 2020**

Introduction

Take up of vouchers in rural areas is picking up pace - although plenty of funding remains available. Over 2,500 new connections with a value of around £5M have already been delivered and a further £16m in value of vouchers have been issued in rural areas.

Of those vouchers funded from the LFFN part of the scheme - which closed to new voucher requests in May - almost 25,000 connections have now been delivered. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, this represents a significant achievement for the Scheme. Thank you for your support.

Pilot Campaign

BDUK is keen to make sure that the voucher scheme is effective in all parts of the UK. We understand the challenges faced by suppliers in identifying project opportunities in rural areas and in understanding the nature of the demand for gigabit capable connectivity.

In late July we will launch a pilot promotional and PR campaign, the “Broadband Upgrade Fund” in three areas of the UK: West Wales; Cornwall and the English Borderlands (Cumbria and Northumberland). The advertising campaign will run until September 2020. The aim is to help capture local demand and hopefully make it easier for suppliers to identify future potential rural voucher projects in these areas. The “Broadband Upgrade Fund” campaign will raise awareness of the voucher funding available under the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and drive people to a micro-site to register their interest and encourage them to tell other local residents and businesses to do the same. People will also have the option to become a Local Coordinator. BDUK is engaging with the local councils in the pilot areas to make them aware of the campaign and encourage them to support local communities through the process if needed.

Registered Suppliers who wish to take part in the pilot will be able to observe the developing interest from communities and decide whether they would be willing to build to that area in response to the accruing value of the vouchers. BDUK will share further details of the campaign later this month, including a link to the Broadband Upgrade Fund micro-site and supplier registration area. We will also make available a toolkit of template marketing materials should you wish to conduct any direct promotional activity yourselves.



Commercial Confidentiality

From July, BDUK will send all commercially sensitive information with password protection. Each supplier will have an individually agreed password to protect documents that are attached to Zendesk applications and tickets. We have already begun implementation of this when we send Commercial Assurance Reviews linked to PRP applications and as such have already agreed passwords with some suppliers. However, for those where this isn't the case, we encourage you to password protect any commercially sensitive documents that you submit to us and then communicate your password by raising a separate ticket, via the support function on the portal. Please use the following format for the subject of the ticket: [Supplier] PASSWORD.

PRP Applications

As suppliers have returned to work and back office functions resume, we are seeing an increase in PRP applications. To manage expectations, please allow a minimum of one month from the date of submission before anticipating our sign off.

Help

Please use the Support function when signed into the website which links to our Zendesk ticketing system to raise queries and respond to issues. This enables us to manage your queries efficiently. Please do not send emails to individual members of the team.

Thank you.