



**Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
Supplier Bulletin #85
Tuesday 20th September 2022**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Voucher priority area (VPA) data update

Please note the latest VPA data update was made at 8am, Tuesday 20 September. The update was due on Friday 16 September, however due to some technical issues this was delayed. Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II all government communications, publishing and announcements were suspended during the national mourning period until after the state funeral held which meant we have only now been able to advise of this delay in updating the data.

Please note that this update is not related to a project submission deadline or voucher pause. This update was to add any newly classified VPAs identified during intervention area (IA) design for all Lots where voucher pauses have already been implemented, Welsh projects which became active the week before the official pause in Wales, Isle of Wight UPRNs and the final VPA list for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire (Lot 13) and Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and East of Berkshire (Lot 26) where pre-procurement market engagement (PPME) has been completed.

New top-ups in Somerset

We are pleased to announce the launch of two top-ups in Somerset which are now live.

Connecting Devon and Somerset is able to offer increased maximum voucher values in two areas in Somerset:

- Somerset - North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset (including North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset administrative area, Bath and Weston-Super-Mare), and,
- Somerset - Mendip and Sedgemoor (including Mendip, the north of Sedgemoor and Burnham on Sea), which is also being part-funded by Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council and the Heart of South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

You can view the geographical areas which are eligible in maps on the individual top-up pages: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/northsomersetbathandnortheast Somerset> and <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/mendipandsedgemoor>.

This additional funding is being made available to suppliers to help eligible residents and businesses in these areas access a gigabit-capable connection.



In Somerset - North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset the maximum value of vouchers for businesses and homes increases by £1,000. This means for homes the maximum available will increase from £1,500 to £2,500 and for businesses from £3,500 to £4,500.

In Somerset - Mendip and Sedgemoor the maximum value of vouchers for businesses and homes increases by £3,000. This means for homes the maximum available will increase from £1,500 to £4,500 and for businesses from £3,500 to £6,500.

These increased values are available in qualifying rural locations where the currently available broadband speed is less than 30 Mbps.

The top-up cannot be added to issued vouchers retrospectively. New projects can be submitted with the top-up, if required, and qualifying UPRNs in these projects will be able to make use of the additional funding once the projects are approved.

BDUK is preparing to launch a Project Gigabit procurement in Devon and Somerset, which means voucher eligibility will need to be paused in these counties to enable a stable procurement. This means there is an upcoming voucher project submission deadline and pause date in Devon and Somerset of 7 November.

As a reminder, the Supplier Terms and Conditions can be found at the following link - <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/for-suppliers/tcs/>

For a broader overview of BDUK's work, please also see this webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-digital-uk>

The Digital Connectivity Portal here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/digital-connectivity-portal>

Other useful information and updates can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/resources-for-communications-network-providers>

If you have any questions about the Scheme please contact us using the Support function when signed into the website.