

Community Fibre Partnerships



Helping you get superfast broadband

Around 5% of the UK isn't covered in existing fibre broadband rollout plans, and that's where we come in.

We're committed to working with all communities to find a fibre solution, and our community fibre partnership scheme is designed to enable this. Delivering fibre to the hardest to reach communities is a huge challenge. In rural areas we often face laying cables over long distances and challenging terrain and in urban areas we have the complexity of working in busy streets with limited space.

We'll work with any community to agree a suitable option to bring fibre to an area via a jointly funded approach. We'll cover costs in line with our commercial model and give communities the price for the 'gap'.

To date we've worked with hundreds of communities and this co-funding model helps bring high speed fibre broadband to hard-to-reach communities, as well as smaller business parks.

This means that wherever we deploy fibre broadband, everyone can upgrade to the service via any provider, bringing plenty of choice to consumers and local businesses.

We can work with you to find out if a community project could be for your area and provide you with the tools to understand and establish local demand.

Why Openreach?

Openreach – the part of BT that provides the vital infrastructure which is the foundation of the UK's vibrant internet economy – looks after the fibres, wires and cables that connect the country offering you the greatest choice of service providers, with over 500 using the network. So whether you're making calls, video conferencing with clients, sharing files, downloading music, streaming movies, or indulging in a bit of online retail therapy – it's most likely on the Openreach network.

A number of factors can impact the price of the infrastructure upgrades needed to provide superfast broadband

Easier/cheaper

- Existing infrastructure (cabinet) in place
- Ownership of land clear/no wayleave issues
- Short lengths of fibre required to be laid
- Large number of premises tightly clustered.

Harder/more costly

- No cabinet in place
- Land ownership unclear/wayleave issues
- Long lengths of fibre required to be laid
- Few premises being served and/or premises spread over a large geographic area.

We've a dedicated team providing management and support to help make the process as simple as possible for communities

1. You'll check the current and planned availability using the line checker



- The first step is to see if we're coming to your area by using the line checker at www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk
- The checker will let you know if you can get fibre broadband already, or if your cabinet's in scope or being built.
- If that's happening, you don't need to do anything as the infrastructure serving your home or business will be enabled in due course.
- If your premises show as 'exploring solutions' that means there's no current plan to deliver fibre in your area.

2. You'll register interest in having a community fibre partnership



- If the line checker shows 'exploring solutions' then investigate a partnered approach with us to get fibre.
- Use the simple form at www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk to let us know you're interested in having a community fibre partnership.

3. We'll send you information you need to start to gather interest for having a community fibre partnership with us



- We'll send you an email with confirmation of your enquiry and will give you a reference number.
- In that email we'll attach a template for you to complete with the addresses, postcodes and landline numbers of the other interested parties in your community.

4. You'll engage your community and build support for the partnership



- This is the point you'll need to start drumming up interest in your area.
- Talk to your neighbours about getting fibre broadband and the benefits it will bring.
- We can help you go about engaging your community.

5. We'll provide you with an indicative costing



- We'll get a ballpark cost to bring fibre to your area.
- The cost we quote will be the money you need to pay on top of our contribution to the solution.

6. You discuss the cost within your community



- At this stage you'll need to share the estimate with other members of your community and reach out to other premises (whether business or residential) that would also be set to benefit.
- If you're still keen to proceed, we'd love to know – there's no obligation at this time.
- Also please let us know if you've decided not to take things further.

7. We'll generate a firm quote



- We'll give you a firm cost (subject to survey), and will let you know exactly which premises would be covered by the infrastructure upgrade.
- We'll start the modelling work to deliver you a more accurate cost and create a proposal that you can contract for.
- We'll send you that full proposal, outlining the proposed solution, and exactly which areas would be covered by fibre broadband.

8. You'll work with your community to generate your part of the co-funding



- Now it's time to get the community together to raise the money for your solution.
- You'll need to pay half of your share of the costs when you sign the contract with us, and the balance when the infrastructure is delivered – around a year after you've signed.
- We can give guidance and material to help with engaging your community and fundraising fibre broadband.

9. We'll plan and build the infrastructure



- Once you've signed the contract it's over to us to build the infrastructure.
- Deploying fibre can be a complex job, so it won't happen overnight. Once work has begun, we'll keep you updated at various stages throughout the process.
- As soon as the infrastructure is live, you'll need to contact your preferred internet service provider (ISP) to upgrade to fibre. Because our network is open to hundreds of providers, you can shop around for the best deal to meet your needs.

www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk

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