

THE RT HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Richard Ellis
Interim Chief Executive
South Northamptonshire District Council
The Forum
Moat Lane
Towcester
NN12 6AD

8th April 2019

Ref: AL/TG/1904

Dear Richard

As you will know, access to secure superfast broadband speeds at home is very important in everyday life – whether for business purposes, streaming entertainment services, shopping, or just communicating with friends and family.

The Superfast Northamptonshire project – the partnership between Northamptonshire County Council and government agency Broadband Delivery UK – is rolling out superfast broadband across our area, and is promoting and securing investment in "next generation access" pure fibre and fibre based broadband infrastructure which is capable of at least supporting superfast broadband services and in some cases ultrafast.

They are currently targeting at least 99 per cent of premises in the county to be able to access superfast broadband and 65 per cent ultrafast – both to be achieved by 31st March 2021.

However, you may be aware that there are still several “not spots” in South Northamptonshire that fall outside of both commercial rollout plans and the Superfast Northamptonshire project, and I would be keen to explore what, if anything, South Northamptonshire Council could do to support those communities in our area that might seek to improve their broadband provision. This could be through planning policy, direct funding to impacted parishes, officer support to those seeking their own solutions, or any other mechanism.

I would welcome your thoughts on this and, perhaps if there was something that SNC could do to close the gaps in coverage, we could advertise this to the communities still without adequate superfast broadband access.

With best wishes,

Andrea

The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

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