



**South  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

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The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP  
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Date: 8 May 2019

Dear Andrea

**Superfast Broadband**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 April regarding Superfast Broadband in South Northamptonshire.

South Northamptonshire Council has been actively working in partnership with Superfast Northamptonshire as well as being a member of the Superfast Northamptonshire Partnership Board to ensure delivery and coverage of superfast broadband in the District remains a priority.

As you mention, the current target is for at least 99% of premises in the County to be able to access superfast broadband and 65% ultrafast by 31 March 2021. I have been informed that the current status of coverage within South Northamptonshire is:

Superfast UK (>24 Mbps): 95.69%  
Superfast EU (>30 Mbps): 95.53%  
Ultrafast (>100 Mbps): 25.29%

Superfast Northamptonshire have advised that the reasons for the comparatively low coverage against the wider county are due to the fact that there are less commercially viable builds within South Northants due to its rural nature.

The project has already delivered a significant amount of coverage within the District and indeed is benefitting from the highest number of premises served under all three stages of the project. On a comparative basis, South Northamptonshire will benefit more than any other part of the county from the deployments with Gigaclear.

South Northamptonshire Council is dedicated to the development of the necessary infrastructure to support our residents and businesses. For this reason, the following reference has been included within the West Northants Joint Core Strategy.



Policy C1(d) states the following:

*New development should be accessed by Fibre to the premises (FTTP) technology, enabling access to Superfast Broadband and speeds of at least 30 megabits per second. Information Communication Networks, such as Superfast Broadband, will be supported across the whole of West Northamptonshire to reduce the need to travel and be a requirement for new developments.*

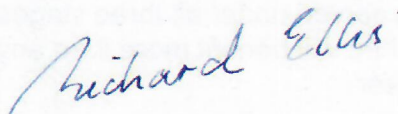
In the emerging Part 2 Local Plan (not yet adopted, a public examination will take place in June), Policy SS2 (1.L) states:

*Planning permission will be granted where the proposed development... (L) is adequately serviced with utility infrastructure appropriate to the development including power, water supply, sewerage, waste management, telecommunications, and high speed broadband;...*

South Northamptonshire Council has contributed a total of £419,000 to the Superfast Northamptonshire project. This contribution has been made to support the delivery of superfast broadband coverage within the District and included a specific allocated to support an extension to the first BT contract to deploy FTTP in Grange Park (completed in March 2016). This funding was specifically for the purpose of extending the Next Generation infrastructure to support the availability of superfast broadband services within the District.

Whilst the deployment schedule is outlined on the Superfast Northamptonshire website, South Northamptonshire Council are actively sharing information to local businesses and communities to benefit from Gigabit Broadband Vouchers. These vouchers were launched in March 2018 by the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) to contribute to the installation cost of faster connections using gigabit-capable infrastructure. Small to medium sizes businesses are able to claim a voucher worth up to £2,500 and residents are able to claim a voucher worth £500 as part of the project. Further information on this scheme is available on the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport website <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Ellis**  
Chief Executive