

# **Communities PDG**

## **Briefing Note**

### **Fibre Optic Broadband in South Kesteven**

#### **Background**

The County and District Councils of Lincolnshire are currently working together in the development and delivery of the onlincolnshire project. Government has set a target of 90% of the UK to have superfast broadband with the remaining 10% getting at least 2Mbps by 2017. The concern from the perspective of a district like South Kesteven is that this 10% is likely to be the rural areas of the country. In line with national policy the Digital Vision of onlincolnshire states that:

“By 2017 our lives and life chances will be transformed by the availability and use of digital technologies that supports a healthy sustainable economy and vibrant communities, enriches people’s lives and gives access to high quality, efficient public services.

The vision will be achieved through:

- ✓ Superfast ‘Next Generation Broadband’ to a minimum of 90% of premises, with the remainder receiving at least 2 Mbps by 2015
- ✓ Seeking additional investment and demonstrating demand to achieve near to universal coverage with easy, affordable access by 2017
- ✓ Facilitating the infrastructure required by the private sector to maximise coverage of mobile connectivity and other digital services
- ✓ Active citizens, businesses and communities who are digitally included

£14 million from the County Council and District Councils (£10million from County – £4 million collectively from Districts) has been added to Government funding of a further £14 million to roll this out across the County. South Kesteven District Council’s contribution to this funding totals £500,000. The combined £28 million will be used to procure services through a tendering process from a national provider – e.g. BT or Fujitsu.

Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) has been created as a delivery vehicle for the Government’s policies, reporting to Ed Vaizey, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries. BDUK is working with Town and Parish Councils to assess the need across Lincolnshire.

There are a few concerns within the Lincolnshire model that the 10% of locations only achieving the 2Mbps capacity could all be in one District (it is not likely but it is something to consider). Strategic Director for Corporate Focus Daren Turner is however working with the Lincolnshire partnership to ensure that South Kesteven remains a priority for roll out but the most effective way of ensuring the District is high on the agenda is by residents logging an interest on the website of onlincolnshire. The more individuals, communities and businesses that log an interest, the more likely they are to influence the providers about where and how they prioritise their work programme.

The following tables show the status of registrations up to the end of June 2012.

# Total registrations by category and district

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	Number of registrations per category			
District	Business	Communities	Resident	Total
Boston	39	13	433	485
East Lindsey	220	40	1,578	1,838
Lincoln	44	2	119	165
North Kesteven	89	17	899	1,005
South Holland	53	-	236	289
South Kesteven	100	25	854	979
West Lindsey	117	25	1,135	1,277
<b>Total</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>6,038</b>

# Total registrations in each parish for South Kesteven

Parish	Number of registrations per category					
	Business	Communities	Resident	Total	Total estimated dwellings	Registration percentage per household
Allington	4	4	67	75	369	20.33%
Ancaster	1	1	8	10	733	1.36%
Aslackby and Loughton	4		17	21	123	17.07%
Barkston			6	6	245	2.45%
Barrowby	2		10	12	854	1.41%
Baston	4	1	8	13	580	2.24%
Belton and Manthorpe	1		3	4	218	1.83%
Billingborough	1	1	7	9	628	1.43%
Boothby Pagnell		1	7	8	56	14.29%
Bourne	7	1	9	18	6,369	0.28%
Braceby and Sapperton		1	2	3	23	13.04%
Careby, Aunby and Holywell	1			1	65	1.54%
Carlby			4	4	201	1.99%
Carlton Scroop		1	5	6	91	6.59%
Castle Bytham	1		4	5	316	1.58%
Caythorpe	1	1	39	41	593	6.91%
Claypole		1	22	23	547	4.20%
Colsterworth	3		47	50	753	6.64%
Corby Glen			8	8	462	1.73%
Deeping St James	2		11	13	3,028	0.43%
Denton			2	2	134	1.49%
Dunsby			2	2	53	3.77%
Easton	1			1	40	2.50%
Edenham			1	1	123	0.81%
Folkingham			8	8	393	2.04%
Foston	3		146	149	218	68.35%
Fulbeck	2		21	23	255	9.02%
Grantham unparished	6		23	29	16,225	0.18%
Great Gonerby	2		2	4	969	0.41%
Great Ponton	1		1	2	185	1.08%
Greatford			1	1	109	0.92%
Gunby and Stainby			1	1	61	1.64%
Haconby	2		7	9	192	4.69%

Parish	Number of registrations per category					
	Business	Communities	Resident	Total	Total estimated dwellings	Registration percentage per household
Harlaxton			2	2	375	0.53%
Heydour			10	10	144	6.94%
Honington			1	1	69	1.45%
Horbling	1		4	5	207	2.42%
Hougham			8	8	72	11.11%
Hough-on-the-Hill	3		14	17	173	9.83%
Ingoldsby			3	3	122	2.46%
Irnham	2		8	10	92	10.87%
Kirkby Underwood	3		13	16	89	17.98%
Langtoft	11		2	13	839	1.55%
Lenton, Keisby and Osgodby			5	5	66	7.58%
Little Ponton and Stroxton			1	1	76	1.32%
Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without			12	12	2,145	0.56%
Long Bennington	1	1	5	7	879	0.80%
Market Deeping	1	1	6	8	2,572	0.31%
Marston			11	11	158	6.96%
Morton	2		8	10	1,030	0.97%
Normanton			1	1	45	2.22%
North Witham			4	4	79	5.06%
Pickworth		1	2	3	74	4.05%
Pointon and Sempringham		1	3	4	244	1.64%
Rippingale	5		13	18	360	5.00%
Ropsley and Humby	2		10	12	373	3.22%
Sedgebrook	1		6	7	142	4.93%
Skillington			8	8	140	5.71%
South Witham			4	4	722	0.55%
Stamford	3		9	12	9,407	0.13%
Stubton			3	3	66	4.55%
Swayfield		1	9	10	144	6.94%
Swinstead			2	2	132	1.52%
Syston	2		2	4	72	5.56%
Tallington	3	5	100	108	191	56.54%
Thurlby	2		21	23	907	2.54%
Toft with Lound and Manthorpe			1	1	124	0.81%
Uffington	1		5	6	305	1.97%
Welby	3	1	21	25	83	30.12%
West Deeping			2	2	126	1.59%
Westborough and Dry Doddington	2	1	12	15	160	9.38%
Witham on the Hill			2	2	90	2.22%
Woolsthorpe by	2		2	4	190	2.11%

Parish	Number of registrations per category					
	Business	Communities	Resident	Total	Total estimated dwellings	Registration percentage per household
Belvoir						
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>58,495</b>	<b>1.67%</b>

Villages that have not logged any interest will not appear in these lists.

## DIY Broadband

There is a growing amount of evidence that communities across the country are choosing not to wait for the roll out of this programme. Here in South Kesteven the South Witham Broadband Project was developed in 2004 and covers South Witham, Thistleton, Colsterworth and Woolstrophe. This network is fed from a satellite service provided by RapidSat. This project was funded by local residents and businesses and also received external funding from a variety of sources including Awards for All, Lincolnshire County Council and the Welland SSP. The South Witham Broadband Project is also working with other villages to assist with their broadband connections – these include Easton on the Hill and Foston.

Other communities to successfully deliver their own broadband connection include:

Ashby de la Launde in North Kesteven – this village brought in an external company – Fibrestream - to lay a fibre optic ring main after BT informed the residents that a connection was not economically viable. Fibrestream spent more than £100,000 on Ashby de la Launde's internet network. The company will recoup this outlay by charging each house a £125.00 connection fee – then about £30.00 per month.

The residents of Lyddinton in Rutland raised £37,000 to offer 2000 homes a super-fast broadband connection by taking over responsibility for an existing BT network. The Rutland Telecom scheme was a joint effort between villagers and a local ICT firm that was reselling BT's broadband. The residents of Lyddington asked Openreach, the BT spin-off that has responsibility for the UK's telephone network to supply fibre optic cable to a street cabinet in the village. Rutland Telecom has been approached by 40 other rural community groups to see if a similar solution is possible in their area. Rutland Telecom currently offers the residents of Lyddington speeds of up to 40Mbps.

The Forest of Bowland and the Lune Valley, recently featured on Radio 4 had a project aim to install a fibre optic superfast broadband network available to every property in the area. The project planned to connect properties across 8 parishes in 2012, then extend to further parishes in subsequent years. The network is owned, managed and supported by members of the community. Members of the local community play a variety of different roles on the project, including digging trenches, administration, marketing and technical support. They are also being trained to blow and splice fibre optics. Specialists have been used for specialist work (e.g. laying cable under roads). Delivered through a Community Benefit Society and financed through a community share offer and work shares - shares cost £1. The minimum investment is £100 and the maximum is £20,000. Free connection and use for the first year is available to investors of £1500. The cost to deliver the first phase is £1.86m.

The cost to customers for a 1,000 megabit fibre to the home connection is £30 a month with a £150 connection (1,000 megabits = 1 gigabyte per second – 500 times higher connection speed proposed in the government's universal service commitment)

## Moving Forward in South Kesteven

Despite the evidence of success from some communities in developing their own solution to fast and efficient broadband there are negatives which need to be acknowledged and addressed. As a District Authority we could take this model forward ourselves – supporting local communities to help themselves in establishing a broadband connection. It could be viewed that we should consider utilising the £500k already committed to the onlincolnshire project to this end however, that would result in vastly reduced coverage than if we continue in partnership with the County Council and other Districts to support the DBUK vehicle for

delivery. If we were, for example, to utilise the £500k we could perhaps bring superfast broadband to 10 villages. By committing our support to the bigger project we can be certain to provide the widest possible coverage across South Kesteven.

Communities going it alone like South Witham, Ashby de la Launde and the Forest of Bowland have proven success with gaining funding through a variety of methods and installing broadband. It could be argued that installation can be carried out quite easily however there is information to suggest that the cost of upgrades in technology would prove prohibitive to individuals and villages which could see them moving from the front to the rear of the pack!

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion it is important to reiterate the need for communities, individuals and businesses to register an interest in super fast broadband delivery on the onlincolnshire website - <http://www.onlincolnshire.org/>. Alternatively residents can express an interest in writing to Lincolnshire County Council.