

Basingstoke Broadband Campaign

PRESS RELEASE

Basingstoke, 12 February 2011

BT confirms details of additional super-fast broadband deployment for Basingstoke

Background

For many years, Basingstoke has been in something of a broadband slow lane. Many of the residential areas in the outskirts of Basingstoke have suffered from very slow and in some cases non-existent broadband service, as a result of long telephone lines from the town centre telephone exchange.

In the spring of 2010, BT's Openreach division deployed super-fast fibre optic broadband to a proportion of Basingstoke residents and businesses. The initial deployment targeted specific areas of the town which analysis showed to be commercially viable. However, this deployment still left considerable parts of the town with internet access well below the government's target of 2 Mbit per second.

Since the initial deployment last year, The Basingstoke Broadband Campaign, along with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Maria Miller MP, has done a lot of work to identify parts of the town which would benefit from further deployment of super-fast broadband.

Details

Openreach has today confirmed the details of the infill programme that they announced late last year, which will see additional cabinets added to the rollout across the country. Within this programme, a further 20 cabinets will be upgraded in Basingstoke to support super-fast broadband by late Summer 2011. These additional cabinets will provide **more than 7,000 extra Basingstoke homes and Businesses** with the opportunity to benefit from high-speed Internet from a variety of communications providers.

Kevin McNulty, General Manager - NGA Customer Engagement at Openreach told the Basingstoke Broadband Campaign, "Basingstoke was amongst some of the first areas in the country to receive super-fast broadband. Now that we've got some experience of early deployment in Basingstoke, we feel confident enough with the technology to roll it out in areas that didn't meet our initial planning criteria. As the deployment takes place, the line checker communications providers use to check service availability will be updated to reflect the additional service areas."

Jaffa Brown, of the Basingstoke Broadband Campaign, said:

"We are absolutely delighted that Openreach has engaged with us so constructively. The result is that many more residents will soon be able to benefit from super-fast broadband service.

Whilst this represents a significant increase in availability of super-fast broadband, we do understand that there will inevitably be gaps in coverage for reasons of network topology and cost of deployment. The Basingstoke Broadband Campaign is actively working to find solutions to overcome these relatively small pockets where Openreach cannot deploy super-fast broadband in a way that fits their commercial model."

For further details:

Basingstoke Broadband web site: www.basingstoke-broadband.co.uk

Basingstoke Broadband Campaign: Tim Robinson, 01256 810630 tim@txrx.org.uk

BT Group: Emma Littlejohn, South East press office: 0800 085 0660 emma.littlejohn@bt.com