

Buckinghamshire

Thames Valley LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP
THE ENTREPRENEURIAL HEART OF BRITAIN



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GROWTH HUB**

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NEWS RELEASE

Demand for high-speed fibre broadband soars with Connected Counties partnership

More people in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire are signing-up for high-speed fibre broadband than ever before thanks to the work of the Connected Counties programme.

More than 41 per cent of households and businesses in the Connected Counties programme area are now using the high-speed service compared to 20 per cent just 18 months ago. The latest figures (published by ISP Review) are amongst the highest in the country and well above the national average of 30 per cent.

The best performing electoral wards in Buckinghamshire for placing superfast broadband orders were Great Horwood, Oakley, Flackwell Heath and Little Marlow, where take-up has reached more than 60 per cent.

The [Connected Counties](#) programme, which is supported by [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (BTVLEP) and managed in Bucks by [Buckinghamshire Business First](#), has made fibre-optic broadband technology available to more than 64,000 homes and businesses across the two counties and will continue to deliver next generation broadband access over the next two years.

To check if an improved broadband service is available in your area, use the When and Where checker on our website <http://www.connectedcounties.org/>

more...

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Michael Garvey, Board Member of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and Joint Chairman of the Connected Counties Broadband Project Board, said: “We are delighted with the progress of the take up of superfast broadband across Buckinghamshire as high speed fibre broadband is essential if local businesses are to remain competitive. As one of the most productive economies in the country we want to continue to provide the conditions for businesses to thrive at the beating heart of the national economy, which is why we continue to push for 100% superfast broadband coverage.”

Giles Ellerton, BT’s regional partnership director for the South East, said: “Its great news that the rollout in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire is proving to be so popular. The Connected Counties team are out and about in the community doing a great job of raising awareness of the benefits of fibre broadband. The technology really does have the ability to transform the way people and businesses use the internet.”

Fibre broadband helps make everything happen online much faster than a standard broadband connection. The technology offers download speeds up to 80Mbps. All of the engineering work as part of the Connected Counties project is being carried out by Openreach, BT’s local network business. This means residents and businesses with access to fibre broadband can choose from a wide range of internet service providers and benefit from competitive pricing and products.

Superfast broadband provides many economic and social benefits, including job creation, online education, remote health care, support for intelligent transport and mobility.

The Connected Counties project is a partnership involving Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire County Councils, Aylesbury Vale, Wycombe and Chiltern District Councils, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnerships, Buckinghamshire Business First and BT.

Ends

Note to editors

Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. It is no accident that we are the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

The [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (BTVLEP) is a business-led 'partnership of equals' between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[Buckinghamshire Business First](#) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

About BT

BT's purpose is to use the power of communications to make a better world. It is one of the world's leading providers of communications services and solutions, serving customers in 180 countries. Its principal activities include the provision of networked IT services globally; local, national and international telecommunications services to its customers for use at home, at work and on the move; broadband, TV and internet products and services; and converged fixed-mobile products and services. BT consists of six customer-facing lines of business: Consumer, EE, Business and Public Sector, Global Services, Wholesale and Ventures, and Openreach.

For the year ended 31 March 2016, BT Group's reported revenue was £19,042m with reported profit before taxation of £3,029m.

British Telecommunications plc (BT) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group plc and encompasses virtually all businesses and assets of the BT Group. BT Group plc is listed on stock exchanges in London and New York.

For further information please contact:
Richard Burton
Communications Manager

T: 01494 568933

M: 07866 492292

E: richard.burton@btvlep.co.uk