

Lincolnshire Broadband Programme:

Reference Notes:

Programmes, Timescales & Objectives:

Contract 1:

Commenced 13th March 2013 with circa £30M Public funding, supported by circa £10M BT funding. The objective was to take Superfast Broadband (*defined as download speeds >24Mb/s*) coverage to 90% of all premises within the county. The project had an eligible premises count of 157,775.

Contract 2:

Commenced in April 2016, with a projected end date of December 2017. Additional funding of £1.8M provided by BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) and matched by £1.8M from LCC. BT added a further £600K. The BDUK objective was to take Superfast Broadband coverage to 95% of all UK premises, whilst the Lincolnshire objective was 93%. The project had an eligible premises count of 7301.

During the deployment of Contract 2, it was recognised that there was a significant underspend from Contract 1. As a result, a further 14,500 eligible premises were added into the contract. This was done by a 'Change Control' which is a contractual mechanism for adding in additional work. As with previous deployments, BT was requested to come up with a deployment plan that delivered value for money whilst maximising overall coverage. The extended Contract 2 has an objective to provide Superfast Broadband to 97% of all county premises by 31st December 2019.

Contract 3:

It is recognised that when Contract 2 is completed, there will still be over 10,000 premises left without Superfast coverage and to that end, LCC are about to go to Tender with remaining underspend from Contract 1 in an effort to reach as many of the remaining premises as possible.

Technologies:

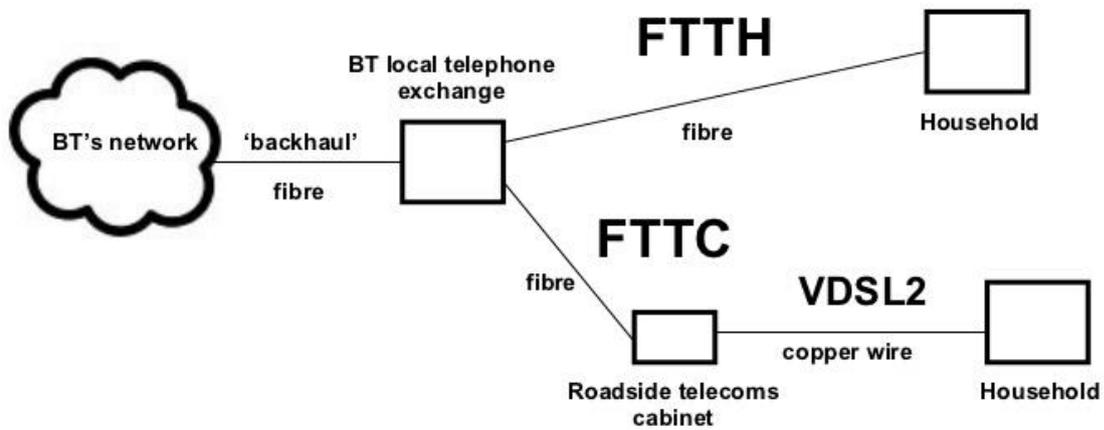
Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC/VDSL2):

In Contract 1, the main technology used was Fibre To The Cabinet. This technology utilises a fibre from the telephone exchange to a new roadside cabinet, located adjacent to the existing roadside cabinet. The two cabinets are then connected together and the existing copper cable from the old cabinet is used to provide the broadband connection to the end user. Typical end user speeds are a maximum of 80Mb/s dropping down as distance from the new cabinet increases. This is due to the length of copper cable and associated electrical resistance.

Fibre To The Home/Premises (FTTH/P)

In contract 2, we are seeing a greater level of deployment of Fibre To The Home/Premises. 97% of remaining deployment is to areas deemed Rural or Very Rural of this, 66% is FTTH/P. This is a result of the extended reach of fibre infrastructure provided in Contract 1. Typical end user speeds of FTTH/P are 330Mb/s with no degradation of speed.

Diagram of both FTTC and FTTH/P technologies:



Fixed Wireless Broadband:

This technology has not been deployed under any of our contracts to date. BT do not use this technology which relies upon a line of sight connection. In other words, a direct line of physical sight between the transmitting antenna and the receiving dish at the customer.



West Lindsey:

West Lindsey District was originally in the Contract 1 build and work was carried out accordingly. Before we entered Contract 2, West Lindsey District Council signed an agreement with Quickline Communications Ltd, to provide 'Superfast Broadband to 100% of West Lindsey'. This agreement was entered into despite LCC advising against it and as a result, BDUK decided that West Lindsey should be excluded from Contract 2 on the basis that you cannot use State Aid (Public Funds) to overbuild existing or planned Superfast coverage.

LCC recognised that this judgement was flawed and successfully overturned the judgement in late 2017. We are now waiting for BT to finalise a deployment plan for the remaining eligible premises in West Lindsey. We expect to see this at the end of April/early May.

Other Issues:

Deployment strategy through both contracts has been based around delivering maximum coverage for the best value for money. This strategy was driven by the very obvious complexity of delivering fibre broadband to an area that has a few large urban areas, but at the same time, widely dispersed rural areas.

Mobile phone coverage does not form any part of this programme and whilst we recognise the need for improvements in that area; we also recognise that we do not have funding or a contract to do so.

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