

Proposal to bring new ultra-fast fibre to Penallt

How?

A community funded project with Openreach, delivering a fibre to the premises network (FTTP) with up to 100MB connections.

Funded using a combination of charity funding for the village hall and government funding vouchers for businesses & residential addresses.

- Cabinet 20 will stay in place and the new network will run along existing cable runs using fibre from cab 20 to approx. 110 individual properties.
- The main road out of the village up to Potash & The Craig will be served off a new line coming out of the village.
- There would be no drop off in fibre for those at the end of the line due to the way the fibre is cabled/used.
- The existing copper lines will stay in place for telephone lines.

Funding

This project is estimated to cost £120k.

A variety of options are open to us as a community. Openreach will help with / complete funding applications.

1. Business vouchers in combination with residential vouchers.

- Currently: £3k/business & £500 for residential.
- 1 business voucher can be used with up to 6 residential vouchers.
- From 7th Jan '19 this decreases to £2.5k/business but each voucher can be used with 10 residential vouchers.
- To receive these vouchers businesses / residents have to commit to taking a 12 month contract on a 100MB service (potentially £50/month).
- After the 12month contract is up you can swap down to a lower MB contract if desired.
- Sole traders/ small businesses can sign up for domestic usage, identifying yourself as a business for this project does not mean you have to take a business fibre contract.
- Eligibility criteria for businesses below. Businesses must be registered to trade within Penallt and only one business per postal address can receive funding.

2. Charity funding.

- The village hall qualifies for £30k funding from an Openreach charitable fund.
- Only one charity based in the village can attract this funding.
- This funding is only available for projects agreed before the end of the financial year, March '19.

3. ABC scheme

- £400 (resident) or £800 (business) accessed via Welsh government.
- An alternative option for residents who may not wish to take a 100MB contract for 12 months.
- It is likely that if residents have already accessed this fund for alternative provision (eg 4G) they will still be able to receive a residential voucher as outlined above (because of 100MB connectivity through the new project)

4. Additional Community fund raising to meet any shortfall

- Details TBC

Timescales:

- The most urgent deadline is identifying interested businesses before 7th Jan when business voucher funding decreases.
- Ideally a project plan will be drawn up and submitted by this date, although this may not be possible within the timescales.
- The network will need to be built within 10 months of vouchers being issued.
- A working fibre connection will need to be accessible to consumers within one year.

Next steps:

- Identify as many businesses and residences as possible that may be interested in joining the project to help access funding - ideally before 7th January.
- Confirm that all residences are included in the project scope.
- Invite Openreach to discuss the project with the community at the Village Hall.
- Talk to other community projects who have delivered similar schemes with Openreach to get an idea of common issues / community fundraising ideas.
- If there are enough interested parties and we can get close to the funding requirements via voucher schemes then a project plan will be written and submitted by Openreach.
- On approval of the project plan a contract will be drawn up, this will need to be signed by a 'legal entity' within Penallt – potentially the Village Hall. Businesses & residences will also need to agree to enter into a 100MB connection contract upon completion of the project.

From Openreach Eligibility Criteria for Business and Residential Vouchers

- a) That the proposed installation address of the SME (which must be their trading address) or residential beneficiary is within a participating local body's administrative area.
- b) That the SME meets the European Commission definition of SME (details at http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en), which can be summarised as:
 - o Up to 249 employees (in total in the organisation) and turnover no greater than €50m per annum, and/or
 - o Balance sheet of no more than €43m
- c) That the SME has not received a previous gigabit voucher or preregistered package under the Scheme. SMEs may benefit from multiple connections supported by the Scheme at different locations, but no SME may benefit by more than £3,000 in total.
- d) That the residential beneficiary has not received a previous gigabit voucher or preregistered package under the Scheme. Residential beneficiaries may benefit from multiple connections supported by the scheme at different locations, but no residential beneficiary may benefit by more than £500 in total.
- e) That, as a result of the voucher contribution included within the relevant package, the SME or residential beneficiary will have received less than €200k in public grants in the last 3 years
- f) That the SME or residential beneficiary will order broadband services such that they will receive a minimum of 100Mbit/s **or** at least a doubling of speeds compared to the service currently being consumed by the SME or residential beneficiary.
- g) That the SME is not a public sector organisation or is not
 - o owned or controlled by the registered supplier
 - o a school funded by DFE
 - o a privately funded school operating over the ages of 3-18 or
 - o an organisation solely involved in offering provision under the requirement for young people to remain in education or training until their 18th birthday.
- h) That the SME or residential beneficiary confirms that they are content for their voucher to be used as part of this proposal for fibre broadband services.

www.communityfibre.openreach.co.uk/gigabit or <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

Details of Welsh Government ABC funding

<https://beta.gov.wales/go-superfast/boost-your-broadband>