

## Community Fibre Partnerships

### FAQs

#### Why do I need it and what will it do for me?

##### **Why do I need faster Broadband?**

There is published research independent of Openreach that show faster broadband can increase your house price by up to 2% and the second most asked question when viewing a house to buy or rent is what is the broadband speed, so you may not require faster broadband but should you ever wish to sell or rent your house a faster broadband will make it much more attractive to potential buyers.

More and more services require Wi-Fi/internet connection, Netflix, Sky Q, Ring door bell, Xbox, Security cameras this will only go in one direction.

##### **I am told I already have Fibre why is FTTP different?**

When communication providers (CPs) speak of Fibre they can mean either Fibre to the Premise (Full Fibre, FTTP, Fibre to the Home) or Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC). Most of the country have FTTC. Full Fibre or FTTP delivers gigabit capable fibre all the way into your home or business. It delivers faster speeds that can be guaranteed, no loss of speed at peak times and no loss of speeds due to distance from the cabinet or exchange. This link helps to explain the differences [Openreach ADSL/FTTC/FTTP explained](#)

##### **What speed can I get from FTTP?**

Our technology is capable of 1Gbps. At the moment most service providers are only offering service up to 330 Mbps. This is expected to change as demand increases.

##### **Why do I need to do a Community Fibre Partnership when the Government have promised a full fibre rollout by 2025 (originally 2030)?**

The Government have announced this but have not specified either how it will be delivered or who will pay for it. A CFP will deliver in one year (from contract signature). At the moment there are several voucher schemes available that may fully fund your scheme.

## **Can I have GFAST through a Community Fibre Partnership Scheme**

It is not possible have a CFP using GFAST. GFAST is a technology that enables those near to a cabinet (within 300m) to receive speeds of up to 330mbps.

## **Is there an alternative solution to taking FTTP? Can I have a new cabinet nearer to me than take FTTP?**

In theory yes, but in practice the cost of a new cabinet will be more expensive than FTTP and will be ineligible for Government vouchers.

## **I have a green fibre cabinet nearby, why can't you just connect into this?**

This is fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) and is not capable of supporting a community's FTTP connections. We have separate fibre connection points called nodes with much bigger capacity that we use to deliver fibre to the premises (FTTP).

## **How long does a typical Community Fibre Partnership take?**

A Community Fibre Partnership can take up to 1 year to deliver once the contract is signed.

The time taken to get to contract is dependent on the complexity of the scheme, whether DCMS vouchers are used and the time it takes for the community lead to rally their community.

## **Estimates and Final offers**

### **I only registered 5 addresses why have you listed 12 addresses in the Initial quote?**

Within our network, properties share common Distribution Points (DPs), this could be a pole or a box outside your property. When we design the new fibre network, we will include all properties that share the same distribution point as the addresses you have given us, because they will all naturally benefit from the work. The capital cost doesn't change and adding the properties that share your equipment means that the contribution required by each property becomes smaller.

**My neighbour does not want anything to do with this, will he benefit from the scheme?**

It depends on his location. If he shares the same Distribution Point (DP) then he will be included. However if the DP is not included then he will not benefit.

**Could you please confirm that the Final Offer is an absolute figure, and not subject to survey or any price increase when you start the work?**

Final offers are a confirmed price, unless they explicitly state that they are subject to a survey. We rarely survey and only if there are flats, self-dig routes or concern regarding the route.

Once the contract is signed, the price is fixed regardless of if it costs Openreach more than expected.

**Why is my final offer much higher than my initial estimate?**

Initial estimates are a computer generated estimate to give an indicative cost. To generate a final offer a planner has looked in detail at our records for the area. This can vary in price because:

The model is not sophisticated enough to identify all the variables

The node that the model identified as the point of connection no longer has capacity

The address list is different to the original

**I have my estimate/final offer and now wish to add more properties not on the original list, how do I do this?**

Absolutely, we want to reach as many people in your community as possible. We will need to produce a new estimate and this may change the capital cost, but we will adopt the same principle of adding others who share the same network – we want to make schemes as affordable as possible.

**Does the estimate include voucher funding?**

No, as funding is subject to availability/eligibility we won't make any deductions at this stage, so any potential funding could be used to reduce the amount that the community must pay.

**What about the USO, can I use this here?**

The Universal Service Obligation (USO) licence is held by BT, not Openreach. It is a separate application process & service that gives individuals the right to demand 10 Mbs service if current speeds received today are below this threshold. BT offer a few options including 4G. Details can be found at [www.bt.com/USO](http://www.bt.com/USO)

## Vouchers and Payment

### **When do I have to pay and how much?**

The amount that you will have to pay will be stated in your final offer letter, please note that this amount is the total amount before and vouchers are applied.

If the scheme does not contain any vouchers then you will be invoiced 50% of the total amount once contract is signed and 50% once the installation is complete.

If the scheme does contain vouchers, then these are first applied to the final 50% payment, any balance is then applied to the initial payment. See example below:

The cost of a scheme is £50k and there are £30k value of vouchers. £25k is due on contract signature and £25k is due on completion. The value of vouchers are worth more than the final payment. So the balance is taken off the initial payment. This means that the initial payment is £20k.

If a scheme is fully funded by vouchers then no payment is made. However if on completion of the work a voucher has become invalid, then a final invoice will be sent to the Legal Entity showing the balance.

### **Can I spread the payments over several years?**

It is not possible to change the payment terms of 50% on contract signature and 50% on completion

### **Is it possible to check voucher eligibility now? If, say, a person runs a business from home but the registered address is at their accountants – would this work?**

Please see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> for further information on eligibility

### **If after collecting all the vouchers we still have a gap – how exactly do we pay that gap? Bank transfer to some Openreach account?**

Yes, we will send an invoice to the Legal Entity.

### **If a Gigabit business voucher is rejected – would the same property be able to get a residential voucher?**

Maybe. It depends on the reason for the rejection. If the reason is that the business cannot prove its status then maybe. But if the reason is that there is an alternative provider coming to the area, then no.

**The process indicates that only after all vouchers are authorised then the contract will be signed. So, what if after the authorisation we are short of the quote for some reason? Could it be possible to add more properties at this point?**

Yes, but it would add a delay as the process needs to be started again. This can only happen before a contract is signed.

**Can I add any vouchers to the scheme once the contract is signed?**

No vouchers cannot be added to the scheme, however if someone moves house then it is possible to substitute a voucher.

**If someone applies for a voucher as a business (SME) – will they be required to connect to an ISP via a business contract?**

No. Small businesses can use residential ISP contracts.

**How do the vouchers work?**

Please go to <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> for more information, but any approved voucher funding will be paid directly to Openreach and will be deducted from the final offer amount.

**What is defined as a business for the voucher schemes?**

A small or medium business must be turning over less than 50million Euros per annum. It can be a limited company, sole trader or charity. It must operate from the premise in the scheme, however if a limited company can be registered elsewhere.

**I work from home, but my company operates from a business premise elsewhere, can I claim a voucher?**

No as the business is operating elsewhere

**My wife does freelance transcription as a Medical Secretary. She is not formally registered as a sole trader because she does not make much (less than the tax free allowance).**

Suggest that they request a voucher as a business and it is up to them to prove with DCMS. She will need to have invoices or something to prove she is working as a business

**I have a business at my address as does my wife and it is our home, can we claim 2 business vouchers and 1 residential voucher?**

The scheme only allows one voucher per property.

## Service Providers

**How can we find out the running costs? Is the phone line rental cost the same for FTTP as for voice/ADSL connection?**

Openreach is not allowed to advise on ISP issues. You can check which ISPs offer Full Fibre service by looking at <https://www.homeandbusiness.openreach.co.uk/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-broadband/ultrafast-fibre-buy-it-now>

You cannot check Ultrafast prices for your postcode as the Gigabit infrastructure is not in place yet. So, please use postcode **MK182HY**

**Do I have to use BT?**

No, everyone who takes part can choose their own communications/service provider (SP/CP) for service - details of participating fibre providers that use the Openreach network here - <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fttp-providers>

**How much more a month is a FTTP service?**

Openreach is not a Service Provider, please speak to a Service provider to confirm charges

## Contracts and Legal Entities

**What is the best form of legal entity (LE) for a community?**

Openreach can contract with various forms of non-profit entities – from unincorporated entity (which does not have to be registered at the Companies House) to various forms of limited companies (these require registration). For example, community interest companies (CIC) or company limited by guarantee (CLG). The choice depends on what suits the community best.

The following are some useful links:

Set up a [Community Interest Company](#) this is quite reader friendly

## **How do we contract with Openreach?**

The contract must be between a Legal Entity and Openreach rather than a group of individuals. The LE can be a business in the community, a CIC (Community Interest Company), parish council, it can be an individual. Please note that a sole trader will be contracted with as an individual.

## **Do I have an ongoing contract with Openreach?**

No, the contract is to deliver the project, after this the infrastructure becomes Business as usual and maintained the same as the rest of OR network. All faults are reported via your Service Provider, the same as you do now.

## **VAT**

### **When is VAT charged?**

VAT is only charged on Commercial groups where the end user has to pay a share of the CFP. EG if the CFP is a business park and the landlord passes on the CFP via a mandatory user charge. If it is Voluntary then no VAT is charged, so if all vouchers no VAT is charged.

In cases where we do charge VAT and the company is VAT registered then they should be able to offset their VAT in their usual way. Please note that we are not Tax Accountants nor HMRC so they do need to seek their own advice on this.

NB If we do charge VAT and the company is not VAT registered then they cannot off set the VAT.

## **Self Dig**

### **Can I dig some of the route?**

It may be possible to reduce our charges by digging some of the route, if digging is required. In many places the network is fully ducted, or supplied overhead, in these cases no digging is necessary. Additionally self dig can only be on private land (digging on public highways requires licences, even in the verge).

Customers wishing to Self Dig must supply details of the Landowners, probable route and a survey will be necessary.

## MDUs

### Can you install in MDUs

Multiple Dwelling Units (flats) are complex for Openreach to deliver to. We will always need to survey and will require Landlords details (or someone to provide access to all areas) prior to a final cost being produced.

## Delivery

### How long will it take to deliver?

Our contract states we will deliver within 12 months of a signed contract. We will of course work to install the network as quickly as possible.

### Why does it take so long for you to deliver?

Once contract is signed, we need to undertake a details plan of your area and plan it into existing work. The work required is a major civil engineering project. We may need to arrange Traffic Management with the local authority to enable us to work in manholes in the road. We may also need to agree wayleaves. This does take time, hence our contracts do state that the work can take 1 year.

### What is a wayleave?

A right of way granted by a landowner, generally in exchange for payment and typically for purposes such as the erection of telegraph wires or laying of pipes. "companies must have way leaves for work they want to carry out on private land"

### Do you need to dig up my road?

We will usually deliver the new fibre via existing poles and ducts, very occasionally we may need to install new duct and poles but we can usually deliver over the existing infrastructure.

### How can one know if a fibre cable would come into the house underground or overhead?

It follows the current route.



**Would normal voice line come through the same fibre cable or via a copper cable?**

Customers can choose if they wish to have a Voice Over IP service or keep a copper line for their voice calls.

**Fibre to the Premise will be included in the contract for those specified on the contract. If someone wants a connection later – will it be a standard connection charge for them for them or incur some cost?**

It depends on where they are and whether there is capacity. This is not known in advance of signing the contract.

**What equipment will be provided at the end of the fibre cable - just the optical network terminal (ONT) box?**

Just a box, a bit larger than your current Master Socket. There is a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-6LKAPIEyK>

**Will I need a new router and if so when do I get it?**

When you order service this will be sent to you from your Internet Service Provider.

**Where the road/pavement/lawns/walls are dug up for the fibre cables – will Openreach make good the surfaces after the work?**

Yes, the only exception is if a drive is a specialist surface such as Resin, when the individual customer will need to arrange and pay for the re-instatement

**What will be the process of discussing the fibre route when there is a need (previous route is unclear or sub-optimal or crosses someone's private land, etc.)?**

With the exception of the link to someone's home the route is as per existing and is known - it follows the current cables.

**When will you need to enter my home?**

Our project will deliver a full fibre solution from the exchange to your property, however we do not enter your home when we are building the network. The final connection into your property will be done when you place an order with your Service Provider.

## Other Questions:

**Can you Fibre just to the road and then we dig up our own gardens (lead ins)?**

This is possible but makes the scheme very complex. All leads in will need to have been completed and inspected before the network can be set to go live. We do not recommend this approach.