



**SUFFOLK BETTER BROADBAND PROGRAMME
PHASE 3
OPEN MARKET REVIEW (OMR)
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Suffolk Better Broadband Programme is extending coverage of better broadband connectivity across the county of Suffolk. Suffolk's overarching aspiration is to deliver full coverage of better broadband services to all premises in Suffolk as soon as possible.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

As described above, Suffolk encompasses the premises that are defined within the accompanying spreadsheet¹, which details the post codes and associated premises count. The premises and post code data has been sourced from Ordnance Survey AddressBase Plus, dated 21st March 2018 (Epoch 57). A map of this area is shown at the foot of this document and is also available in a GIS format upon request.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

Our initial Local Broadband Plan was approved in April 2011, covering an Intervention Area of some 134,503 premises that were assessed as being outside the scope for normal commercial NGA investment through an open market review process. The Phase 1 contract signed in December 2012 aimed to deliver at least 85% superfast broadband coverage of Suffolk by November 2015. In October 2014, we signed a Phase 2 contract, which aims to further extend coverage to 98% of Suffolk premises by 2020. In line with the UK Government's targets, we are substantially contributing to the Government objective to support investment to provide Superfast Broadband coverage to as many premises as possible beyond the 95% level across the UK achieved in December 2017, achieving 92.5% Superfast Broadband coverage of Suffolk premises by the mid-2018).

¹ OMR Response template will be released to providers once Suffolk have received the signed PMSA Standard Form Contractor Licence which can be found at the end of this document]

We now propose to undertake a Phase 3 procurement with the aim of achieving full coverage of Suffolk premises as soon as possible. Suffolk is currently securing the funding required for its Phase 3 procurement, and the details of the funding secured, and any restrictions on their use, will be set-out in our forthcoming tender documentation. It is therefore Suffolk's intention to procure Next Generation Access solutions – those capable of achieving a minimum of 30 Mbps download speed - for the remaining area in scope for NGA deployment, and to prioritise any remaining premises getting less than 15Mbps by the end of our Phase 2 deployment.

4. **PURPOSE OF THIS OMR**

As part of this new Phase 3 procurement process, we are now commencing an Open Market Review ("OMR") to establish existing and planned (next 3 years) commercial coverage of broadband services across the Suffolk by all existing and any prospective, NGA broadband infrastructure providers.

This OMR is intended as a precursor to a formal public consultation document. The UK applies a best practice process that promotes the use of both an Open Market Review ("OMR") and a Public Consultation, the latter being conducted in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Broadband Guidelines.² We consider that early market engagement at this stage is an essential and extremely important part of our early market research. The results of the OMR will assist us with understanding the broadband infrastructure (Next Generation Access (NGA)) already in place and where there are plans for investment in such infrastructure in the coming three years, and is a significant step in the design of the Intervention Area to be targeted by the new Phase 3 contract.

Once we have defined these Intervention Areas from the OMR, we will be conducting a minimum one month State Aid public consultation on our proposed Intervention Areas. We propose to launch our ITT in the financial year [2018/19].

5. **YOUR RESPONSE REQUIRED**

We are sending this OMR to all recognised broadband infrastructure and internet providers in our area. In addition, we are publishing this OMR document on our website.

We require responses by **7th September 2018** to the questions set out in the Annex. A full response template incorporating a spreadsheet of our Intervention Area premises is available via our website – please see below for details about our website and how to gain access to this spreadsheet/response template. When responding, we would be grateful if you could confirm your organisation's name and address, as well as the name, position and contact details of the person responding on behalf of the organisation.

² Community Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to rapid deployment of broadband networks
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:025:0001:0026:EN:PDF>

6. **BETTER BROADBAND FOR SUFFOLK – WEBSITE ACCESS**

The OMR Response Template will be released via email once a signed Partners Standard Form Contractor Licence, which can be found at the end of this document, has been returned to **broadband@suffolk.gov.uk**.

Please note that the data you provide in your response will be treated as commercially confidential to Suffolk, albeit that it may be necessary to share some/all of your response data with our professional advisors and/or DCMS/BDUK, Ofcom, BIS State Aid Branch and the European Commission in the course of seeking State Aid. It should also be noted that it is a State Aid requirement to utilise this information to produce State Aid maps to define white, grey and black areas for basic and NGA broadband. These maps will be published as part of the Public Consultation process and will be utilised to define the intervention area. However, please note that these published maps will be assimilated utilising data from all relevant operators and will not be directly attributed to a single source.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact **broadband@suffolk.gov.uk**

ANNEX

1. **Please provide details and supporting evidence of any current or planned investment in broadband infrastructure (basic broadband and NGA broadband) in Suffolk. In the case of planned investment, we are particularly interested in plans for the coming three years (to autumn 2021). Beyond completion of the attached spreadsheet template (or instead of the spreadsheet if you are not able to provide the information in the required template form), any information provided in response to this request should include but not be limited to:**
- Premises detail for basic broadband and NGA broadband showing the existing coverage and separately maps detailing the planned investment in the basic broadband and NGA infrastructure networks for at least the next three years;
 - Exact detail of premises passed or covered, including information on the number of premises passed (in the case of a fixed network) or covered and able to receive services (in the case of a wireless/satellite network);
 - Details of the technology and where these claim to be NGA, demonstrate how they meet the minimum standards as set-out in the BDUK Technology Guidelines³.
 - Description of the services/ products currently offered and separately those to be offered within the next 3 years;
 - Installation and rental tariffs for those services/products clearly identifying whether they are inclusive or exclusive of VAT;
 - Upload and download speeds typically experienced by end users;
 - Appropriate indicators of quality of the service e.g. contention ratio or bandwidth allocation per end user;
 - Evidence to substantiate actual or planned coverage claims including business cases and evidence of available funding to enable plans to be fulfilled.
 - Details and timing of roll-out for future investment; and
 - Confirmation from an authorised signatory that all information provided is of suitable accuracy.

Please supplement with supporting evidence as you consider appropriate e.g. public websites.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-nbs-tech-guidelines>

Thank you,
Suffolk Better Broadband Programme

Attachments:

Map of Geographic area attached.

PSMA Standard Form Contractor Licence attached

Premises level template will be provided on receipt of PSMA Standard Form Contractor Licence.