



Haverhill Area Working Party 26 January 2012

BT/Openreach Installation of Superfast Broadband in Haverhill

1. Background

- 1.1 Via the contractor Morrisons, BT/Openreach are currently installing fibre broadband infrastructure in much of Haverhill. 28 cabinets are being installed in Haverhill with two further cabinets being put in place in Kedington.
- 1.2 The fibre broadband installation programme being implemented in Haverhill is known as Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) which will offer up to 40Mbps download speeds to those areas that are capable of receiving it. FTTC effectively means that a second slightly larger cabinet is installed no more than 50 metres from the existing copper cabinet. Whilst the new cabinets will connect to properties via the existing copper network they are linked to the telephone exchange via a fibre connection, thus offering increased broadband speeds.

2. Timescales

- 2.1 Openreach advise that the Haverhill installation programme is likely to be completed by the end of January 2012 though this could be sooner depending upon the weather conditions. Whilst 28 new cabinets are being put in place, there remains 11 areas served by copper cabinets that will not be upgraded within the current programme (this figure of 11 includes 1 cabinet at Little Wratting and 1 cabinet at Sturmer). This is similar to the Bury St Edmunds programme where the town is served by 75 copper cabinets and 49 fibre cabinets were installed. Effectively this means that parts of Haverhill will not be able to receive fibre broadband products at this time. The decision regarding the locations for the new cabinets is purely a commercial one.

3. Service Provision

- 3.1 There is no information currently available regarding which properties will be able to upgrade their broadband packages to receive the new fibre broadband product and the location of the cabinet only offers a guide. With Bury St Edmunds, once the cabinets were in place, it was possible to enter a phone number on the BT webpages to determine the maximum speed available to a property and it is expected this will be the same situation with Haverhill.
- 3.2 The position with broadband in Haverhill falls into three areas. Firstly, much of Haverhill will be able to access the new fibre products as explained above following this upgrade programme. However, the products offered following the installation programme will be generally aimed at the residential user and the smaller business. Secondly, following on from this, the information provided by Openreach indicates that there are no new fibre cabinets being installed near the commercial areas of Haverhill such as Hollands Road, Homefield Road etc. There are separate commercial products available to the larger businesses. Thirdly, one of the aims of the 'Suffolk Better Broadband' initiative is to comprehensively offer Superfast Broadband to the towns in Suffolk and beyond. This initiative will complete in 2015 and Haverhill will benefit from this.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Working Party is requested to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

For further information, please contact:-

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