

Monthly Round-Up – SCC

Continuing the push with Better Broadband for Suffolk with an interim satellite broadband scheme

A resolution has now been reached between DCMS and the EU. This will enable the county council to spend its full £30m of public funding, as well as the monies clawed back from the first contract a total of £33.9m.

This is, however, subject to the county council running a one month public consultation with the market, to further ascertain and demonstrate that no commercial plans exist to intervene in the additional areas the council plans to target with the reinvestment.

This consultation will run over Easter, and will conclude on 8th April. After April, the county council can complete the contracting process with BT and BDUK to embed the fully financed rollout plan into the contract, and commence community briefings in the early summer.

This resolution is a big step forwards, and does not involve actively conducting a full review of coverage with the market, but only consulting on the county council's plans for reinvestment.

In addition to this, DCMS are launching a flyer scheme to premises which they feel could benefit from the interim satellite broadband scheme; these will be distributed during the last two weeks of March. This will be a government-led promotion and the Suffolk version of the flyer is attached below:

HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Find out more from your local broadband scheme details board.
- 2 If you qualify you will be sent a unique eligibility code.
- 3 Review the suggested providers, make a choice to a package and monthly plan that best suits your needs.
- 4 Using your eligibility code, place an order with your chosen provider.
- 5 The funding will be used to install your new broadband and apply for grants to reduce costs.
- 6 **WELCOME TO BETTER BROADBAND!**

CONTACT US

For full details about the Basic Broadband Scheme including information on who is eligible and how to apply go to: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

This scheme is managed locally by Suffolk County Council in co-operation with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and is partly funded.

Department for Culture Media & Sport

WANT BETTER BROADBAND?
Find out if you qualify for a discounted satellite connection

BETTER CONNECTED

The government is committed to ensuring every home and business across the UK has access to a basic broadband service.

So, if you're frustrated by a connection speed of less than 2Mb per second, you may qualify for a subsidised satellite connection.

CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

You can find out if you're eligible at:
<http://basicbroadbandchecker.culture.gov.uk/>

If you do qualify, contact your local broadband scheme (see back of leaflet) for further information and details on how to apply for help.

Funded by UK Government

WHAT IS SATELLITE BROADBAND?

Satellite broadband connects through a satellite dish on a roof your property. The cost of the broadband connection varies depending on the services required.

HOW TO USE THE SERVICE

If you are eligible, your local broadband scheme will provide the free-of-charge installation and cost of any equipment you need to access the service.

You will need to enter into a contract with a supplier for a minimum of 12 months.

If you are interested in satellite broadband, regardless of eligibility for this subsidy, please explore all the options in your area, as there may be alternative offers available.

Funded by UK Government

To date, the county council has enabled 35 cabinets, and reached over 3,000 premises under the Superfast Extension Programme, towards a target of over 1,000 cabinets, and over 50,000 premises by the end of 2019.

New delivery model for county's rural transport set to improve existing services for residents

As part of Suffolk County Council's ongoing efforts to improve service provision despite reduced funding, community transport provided by the county council has been re-tendered to provide a service based on people's needs.

The changes will bring a positive difference to communities, providing residents with a single phone number for each area. The whole county will be covered so there are no longer any areas where there may have been gaps in service in the past. This rural transport service approach has been developed by building on the experience and expertise of the operators who will be running the services from June 2016.

These new service arrangements come into effect on **Monday 13th June 2016** and there will be further announcements to ensure everyone is aware. Between now and June, services continue to operate as they do at present.

Information on all services can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com and the county council will continue to inform communities via parish councils, local noticeboards magazines.

Between now and 13th June, there will be local events in each district to enable the community to meet the new operators and build up positive relationships.

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services praised by Ofsted with "GOOD" rating

Suffolk County Council's Children's Services has been rated **GOOD** by Ofsted following the publication of its inspection report on 15th February 2016. The report praises the work of the council in protecting and looking after children and young people, with some areas of outstanding practice highlighted in the report. The inspection was carried out between 23 November and 17 December 2015.

Suffolk now sits in the top 22% of local authorities in the country. 78 councils have been inspected so far under Ofsted's new framework. No authority has been judged outstanding and of the last 17 inspections across the country, just one authority had been judged GOOD, until Suffolk's rating.

Education Round-Up:

Suffolk's Secondary Schools confirm places for 2016/17

This year, Suffolk County Council received a total of 7137 applications from parents and carers indicating which secondary school they would prefer their child to be educated at from September 2016 when they start Year 7.

- 92.9% of applicants received offers for their first preference school
- 97.7% of applicants received an offer for one of their top three preferred schools
 - (97.7% equates to a total of 6976 pupils)

It is extremely positive to see that almost 98% of applicants have been offered one of their preferred school places. The county council uses published criteria to decide priority for places in order that the process is fair and clear. However some families may be disappointed or anxious about the offer they have received. The county council recognises that starting secondary school is an important moment for any child so the more that can be done to ease that transition for every pupil, the better.

Any parents or carers with children born between 1 September 2004 and 31 August 2005 and who have not yet applied for a school place should contact Suffolk County Council immediately on 0345 600 0981.

Raising the Bar Awards 2016 – nominations remain open until 24 March

Award nominations are coming in thick and fast across 20 Raising the Bar award categories; these include awards for children and young people, teachers, staff and volunteers, as well as schools, settings and projects.

Nominations are open to all publicly funded educational establishments in Suffolk. Anyone can make a nomination by visiting www.rtbawards.com and completing the nomination form by Thursday 24 March 2016. Please do encourage all those in your communities to consider making a nomination; it means such a lot to those who are nominated and showcases the great work going on across the county as part of the Raising the Bar programme.

The Raising the Bar Awards 2016 categories are as follows:

Rising Star of the Year
Young Achiever of the Year
Inspirational Young Person of the Year
Educational setting of the year
Educational leader of the year
Excellence in governance
Excellence in teaching
Excellence in middle leadership
Support staff of the year
Excellence in collaboration
Business partner of the year
Innovation of the year
Unsung hero of the year