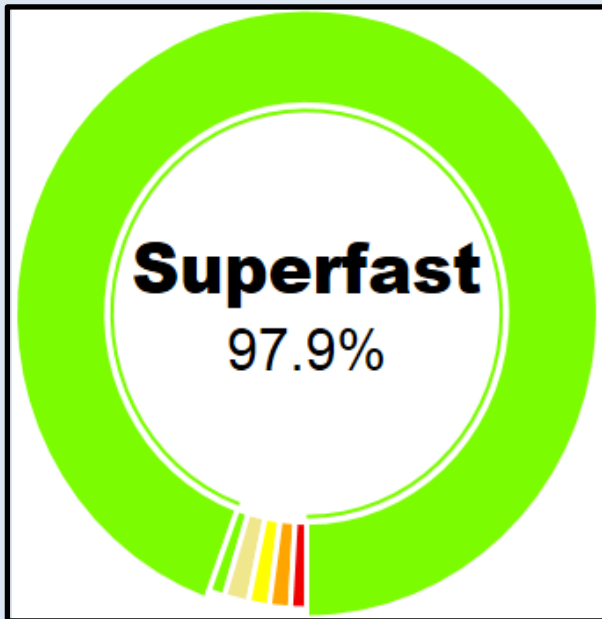# SUPERFAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE STAKEHOLDERS BRIEFING - JULY 2019

This report draws on information published by the UK broadband comparison site www.Thinkbroadband.com. It presents an independent view of how Northamptonshire is making progress towards the County Council's broadband coverage targets. Public investment through the Superfast Northamptonshire project is complementing commercial coverage by securing broadband solutions in areas which otherwise would not be served. The target is for over 99% of premises in the county to have access to superfast broadband and 65% to ultrafast by March 2021. Further coverage and measures are being brought forward through the Superfast Northamptonshire project to help reach this target.

To see the latest Superfast Northamptonshire delivery headlines please visit The Roll out Schedule on the project website at www.superfastnorthamptonshire.net or view the When and Where map for further information.

Please direct all enquiries to **bigidea@northamptonshire.gov.uk**

Superfast broadband coverage in Northamptonshire

Superfast 97.9%

Superfast UK (>24Mbps) 98.1%

Superfast EU (>30Mbps) 97.9%

Ultrafast (>100Mbps)   63.7%

Full Fibre (FTTP)   7.2%

Below 2Mbps   0.2%

Source: © ThinkBroadband.com
Dated 20/07/19

Superfast broadband coverage (above 30Mbps) in Northamptonshire has reached 97.9% of premises. This compares to 96.3% in England. Ultrafast broadband coverage is 63.7%. This compares to 60.2% in England.
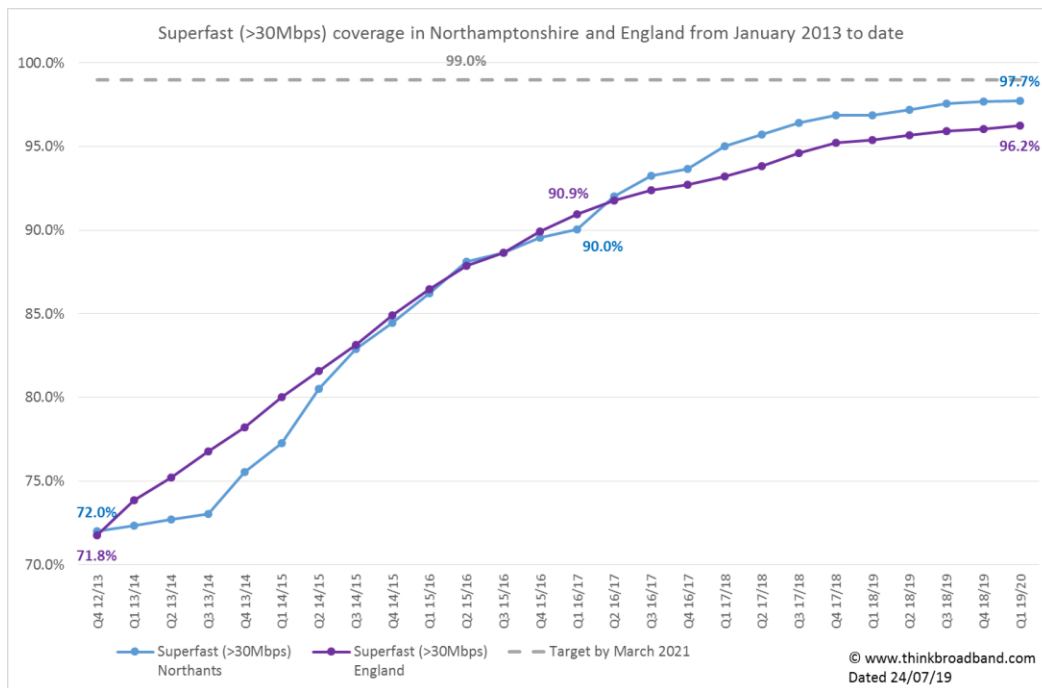
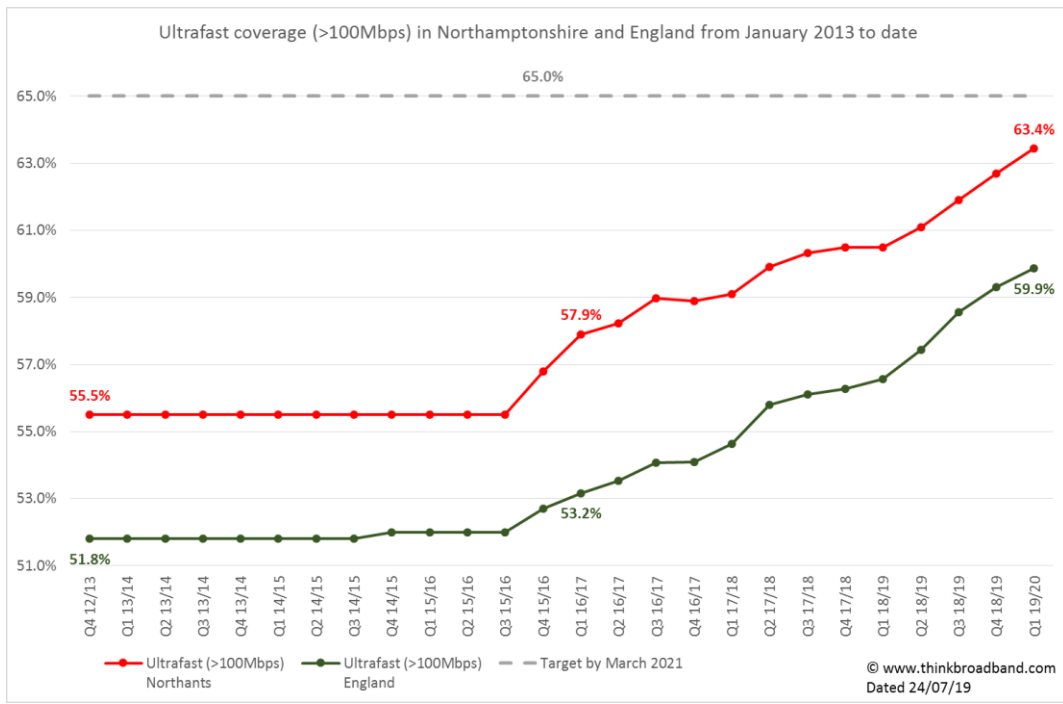**Northamptonshire Broadband Coverage Analysis – Source Thinkbroadband.com 01 June 2019**

Northamptonshire	Superfast Coverage (UK >24Mbps)	Superfast Coverage (EU >30Mbps)	Ultrafast Broadband Coverage (>100Mbps)
Urban	99.1%	99.0%	77.1%
Rural	95.7%	95.3%	36.8%
Business Coverage	91.4%	90.6%	39.1%

Superfast broadband coverage in Northamptonshire by district or borough – source Thinkbroadband 20/07/19

Local Authority Area	Superfast Coverage (UK >24Mbps)	Superfast Coverage (EU >30Mbps)	Ultrafast Broadband Coverage (>100Mbps)
Corby	99.7%	99.7%	75.8%
Daventry	94.7%	94.5%	17.9%
East Northamptonshire	98.1%	97.9%	59.6%
Kettering	98.9%	98.9%	80.4%
Northampton	98.8%	98.7%	84.9%
South Northamptonshire	96.2%	96.1%	26.4%
Wellingborough	99.1%	98.4%	68.8%
Northamptonshire	98.1%	97.9%	63.7%
England	96.7%	96.3%	60.2%
GB Rural	88.2%	87.0%	16.1%
GB Urban	98.5%	98.4%	69.0%

The county is performing well with both superfast and ultrafast broadband coverage exceeding the averages for England. Moreover, if characterising the respective districts and boroughs as largely urban or rural, levels of superfast and ultrafast broadband coverage exceed both the GB urban/rural averages in all areas.

Superfast (>30Mbps) coverage in Northamptonshire and England from January 2013 to date

Northamptonshire County Council

Ultrafast coverage (>100Mbps) in Northamptonshire and England from January 2013 to date

© www.thinkbroadband.com
Dated 24/07/19

Superfast Northamptonshire Delivery Headlines

Openreach Stage 1 - Complete

- Number of premises passed by fibre: **61,950**
- Number of premises now able to take up superfast broadband: **53,800** in the target 'in need' area (end December 2015 - updated quarterly)
- Number of fibre cabinets or structures deployed: **310**
- Over **490km** of fibre cable laid
- Delivery progress Stage 1: **101%** complete

Openreach Stage 2 - up to end June 2019

- Number of premises passed by fibre: **22,130**
- Number of premises now able to take up superfast broadband in the target area (intervention area): **18,190**
- Stage 2 superfast delivery to: **93%** complete
- Number of fibre cabinets or structures deployed: **249**

Gigaclear Stage 3 - up to end June 2019

- **6,300** rural premises are due to benefit from ultrafast broadband
- Fibre roll out due to complete in mid 2020
- Over **490km** of fibre optic cable laid
- Number of premises now able to take up full fibre ultrafast broadband: **1650**

Northamptonshire County Council

<u>Next Steps</u>

Whilst good progress is being made, and Northamptonshire compares very well against other areas, more needs to be done if the project targets are to be achieved by March 2021, and for the whole of the county to benefit from superfast broadband.

The County Council has launched an Open Market Review (OMR) to consult telecoms providers and update information on existing and planned commercial coverage. This will help to inform next steps and enable remaining areas of poor coverage to be identified. The When and Where map will be reviewed to take account of data updates provided in response to the OMR. In addition, the potential to do more through existing contracts with Gigaclear Networks and Openreach is being explored. This includes an opportunity to invest an additional £2m secured by the County Council from the Government's Rural Broadband Infrastructure scheme to extend connectivity to eligible rural businesses. More on this will be confirmed in the coming months.

A key focus is increasing levels of full fibre coverage with the Government having a target of full fibre connectivity across all parts of the UK by 2033. The importance of full fibre was set out in the The Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR) and is part of the Government's modern Industrial Strategy.

Building Digital UK (part of the Government Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport) has also recently launched its Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme. This complements the existing Gigabit Voucher Scheme. Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps can pool vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and up to £1,500 per residential premise, to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. This demand led scheme is subject to the eligibility rules in the terms and conditions.

More news is awaited on potential new policy to require the provision of fibre connectivity to new build developments. The County Council responded in December 2018 to the Government's consultation on New Build Developments: Delivering gigabit-capable connections. The outcome report has yet to be published. This new policy is essential to support achievement of the Government's target for full fibre connectivity.

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