



ISLINGTON

Estate Fibre Broadband Rollout

October 2021

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What is fibre broadband and why do we want it?



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Fixed Fibre to the property or FTTP to fibre broadband that is wired directly to the home instead of a cabinet that services an area

Most council homes are currently connected to these cabinets via copper cable (FTTC) is more unreliable and only capable of delivering limited connection speeds.

FTTP connections can be x3 times faster than FTTC connections and can support significantly higher levels of household demand, making it possible to use a number of devices and stream data, music or videos at the same time.

Faster and more reliable connectivity has become more important now than ever with increases in home working, home schooling, streaming digital media and the significant trend toward accessing goods and services online.



Our approach..



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We recognise the significant social and financial benefits to a well connected borough and the huge demand for faster, more affordable and reliable digital connectivity for our residents.

Over the past year, we have develop our approach to secure investment to upgrade our estates to FTTP and have worked closely with :

- The Greater London Authority (GLA),
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS)
- A number of other local authorities, in particular with colleagues at Hackney, whose approach we have closely aligned to because of their advanced progress in this area and the similarity in our aspirations.



Our approach continued...



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The council envisages working with a number of internet service providers to deliver services across the borough in order to :

- Facilitate the rollout of FTTP to our estates as quickly as possible
- Maximise the choice of provider available to residents
- Keep the costs of services as low as possible
- Maximise the social benefits of improved connectivity



Our approach continued...

The council will engage with the FTTP market providers in mid November 2021, seeking expressions of interest from potential partners who will be asked to make commitments to the following:

- To provide high quality and affordable connections to all council owned estates and to a mutually agreed timescale
- To work collaboratively with the council and other providers to minimise disruption to residents.
- To install all equipment and cabling in a way that is safe (protecting compartmentation of homes) and protects the council's and residents' interest in our homes and buildings.
- To contribute toward the council's significant costs in facilitating the safety compliant rollout.



Community benefit



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Through market engagement, the council hopes to maximise the community benefit of the rollout of FTTP to our estates and wipe out digital connectivity blackspots on council estates entirely within the next few years.

The council is seeking a broad range of measures and commitments from providers in this area, but also recognises that the providers will need to make significant levels of investment to deliver fibre to our estates.

Our specific expectations around these have been set out in our expressions of interest document and will be subject to discussion and negotiation with providers. Publication of these ahead of our market engagement this month would not be prudent as it may compromise the council's ability to secure the best outcomes from the market.



Implementation and rollout



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We have developed a Master Wayleave agreement that all providers will be expected to sign up to. This agreement will cover the broad terms of the agreement and provide the service providers with rights to access council property to survey, install, repair and maintain their equipment.

A full technical specification for the installation of equipment and cables on our estates has also been developed, that will govern all works undertaken on housing estates and ensure works are delivered safely.

Detailed site-by-site approval and technical supervision, particularly around fire stopping and safety, will be undertaken by specialist officers within Homes and Neighbourhoods teams.



Constraints and Electronic Communications Code 2017



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FTTP rollout in the UK has been slow and the levels of investment required are significant. There are also very few FTTP providers operating in the UK and London markets so competition is limited.

There are also diminishing returns for the investment for subsequent providers so attracting multiple providers onto the same estates is unlikely.

The Electronic Communications Code allows the courts to impose leases or licences on the council or any private landowner – this means that providers can serve notices on landowners who are subsequently forced to allow Code providers to install equipment on their land and for very little in the way of compensation or consideration. It would be unlikely to successfully gain any community benefit or other concessions if this should happen.

