

# Islington Broadband

## Update on programme delivery

As of October 2024, the estate broadband programme has been ongoing for over eighteen months since commencing in January 2023. It has continued to run smoothly over the months, and we continue to work with each of the providers to reach our goal of delivering fibre broadband to 90% of council homes across the borough by the end of the programme in 2025. Some highlights include:

- Over 25500 live connections across the borough with residents able to connect to services
- Hyperoptic have live connections in over 19,500 council-owned homes as part of this project and boroughwide 1:3 homes in Islington can order a service from Hyperoptic.
- Community Fibre have live connections in over 4,360 properties as part of this project and a total of 15,122 homes live across the whole borough.
- GNetwork did not start cabling our blocks until January 2024 but now have live connections in over 2141 council owned homes and a total of 4740 live across the whole borough.
- 8 community centres now have a free live connection.
- The IMAX team continue to promote the providers' low cost (social tariff) options to their clients, and we have received feedback that residents have been taking these up.
- £20,000 of funding from Hyperoptic has been unlocked to provide training to residents in three community centres across the borough. This includes online safety and online basics.
- Community Fibre have agreed that we can have access to a person to roll out some resident training. This is currently being discussed by the Community Partnership team.

## Comparison with neighbouring Boroughs

All London boroughs now have current estate broadband programmes underway and are working through wayleave agreements with a range of providers. The borough programmes are being delivered to different periods and through varying local models. For example, Southwark commenced their programme with Hyperoptic and Community Fibre in 2018 (delivering 41,000

connections) and now have a subsequent programme with BT Openreach which ends in 2024; Hackney commenced their programme in 2021.

The most comprehensive broadband connectivity information publicly available is collected and published by Ofcom. Collated by Connected London, the total (estate-based local authority programmes and all other connections) comparative broadband coverage is presented in a mapping tool<sup>1</sup>. Table 1 shows the fibre broadband data for Islington compared to the London average and neighbouring boroughs. Also to note is that the tool uses the latest Ofcom data from Spring 2024 and therefore does not reflect a completely up to date picture.

**Table 1:** Broadband coverage by Borough (% premises connected, Spring 2024)

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Full-fibre coverage (% premises)</b>
London average	62%
<b>Islington</b>	<b>60%</b>
Camden	76%
Hackney	68%
Tower Hamlets	71%
Southwark	71%
Lambeth	68%

To inform our programme delivery, the team continue to share peer-to-peer learning with Central London Forward (GLA) and our established contacts in other London boroughs.

### **G-Network**

G-Network have completed several installations with live connections now available to residents on Ringcross, Mersey, Percival, Lorraine, Bemerton, Popham & Earlstoke estates. Cedar Court, Field Court, Fieldview Court, Parker Court and John Kennedy Court.

### **Community Fibre**

Community Fibre have chosen to pause all installation works across London. They will have completed all their programmed installation works in Islington by the end of April and the delivery team are now working with the other providers to take forward the survey packs already agreed.

They are fulfilling their obligation to cable the community centre on the New Orleans Estate which should be live shortly.

We are hopeful that Community Fibre will recommence installations in the future.

### **Hyperoptic**

We continue to work with Hyperoptic who have excelled in delivering the programme. They continue to receive support from the delivery team through a well-established good working relationship.

## **BT Openreach**

We have completed wayleave negotiations with BT Openreach. Unfortunately, they continue to discuss this internally and no further progress has been made. Information from CLF would indicate that this is commonplace amongst other London boroughs. We are hopeful that they will be able to complete the wayleave in the coming weeks.

## **Listed Building Consent**

There are approximately 600 properties in listed buildings that are not yet cabled due to the requirement of listed building consent. We are considering options and liaising with the Listed Building Team to find a compromise that does not affect the integrity of the buildings but that does provide residents with the option to connect to full fibre if required. It is crucial to find a solution given that the Public Switched Telephone Network (PTSN) will be turned off in January 2027.

## **Information for residents**

The [Broadband | Islington Council](#) webpage provides information about the programme and includes links to the providers' pages where residents can check whether live connections are available to them. The delivery team can be contacted by email: [islingtonbroadband@islington.gov.uk](mailto:islingtonbroadband@islington.gov.uk).

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<sup>i</sup> [London Connectivity](#)