



Bringing faster broadband to our rural areas

Could you benefit from the Gigabit Vouchers Scheme?

Gigabit vouchers can be used by small and medium-sized businesses, and the local communities surrounding them, to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit capable connection.

One gigabit is the same as 1,000 megabits – so it's a big leap forward in connection speeds that could benefit you and your business into the future.

Businesses can claim up to **£3,000** against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme as part of a group project, which also includes businesses, and can claim for a voucher of up to a value of **£500**.

Vouchers can be aggregated so that if, for example, a village or wanted to upgrade its connectivity then as long as there are businesses involved the vouchers can be pooled together to form one project covering the entire area. This would ensure best value for all concerned and would reduce costs overall.

To set up a local project it would be necessary to go through a supplier (as with single user vouchers). It is expected that the combined value of vouchers claimed by businesses in a scheme will be greater than the combined value of the residential vouchers.

The Gigabit Voucher Scheme is administered centrally by DCMS and all interface with suppliers is usually carried out on online. Not a lot of help when you have a very poor Internet connection!

In order to help those thinking of setting up a project we are running Gigabit Voucher Events, in partnership with some Borough and District councils. Around 60 people attended the Gigabit Voucher event in Stratford. There were 20 suppliers and partner organisations present, so that visitors had the opportunity to speak to a good range of providers about their requirements.

A further event is planned for 27th November in Nuneaton. It will run from 11-3 at the Town Hall on Coton Road. If you are a supplier and would like to take a stand, or just want to find out more, please contact either Matthew Bird or Chris Lawes at: econdev@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

To find out more about the Gigabit Voucher Scheme visit <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>



CSW Broadband is a partnership between Warwickshire County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council, BT and Department for Culture Media & Sport.