Dreaming of faster broadband?
Now’s the time to act

- Talk to your neighbours and local businesses to see if they are interested in applying for voucher funding
- Find a broadband supplier in your area
- Register your interest with that broadband supplier
- Consider forming a gigabit community partnership of neighbours
- You may wish to nominate a representative to keep in contact with the supplier on behalf of the whole group
- Contact Dorset Council’s Digital Dorset team if you need any further support and advice on getting a scheme up and running

Email us at connectingdorset@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought home just how important having access to fast broadband is – it’s helped to keep businesses alive, loved ones in touch with each other and children learning when schools were closed. Faster broadband is a necessity – not a luxury.

Is your slow broadband driving you mad?

Don’t despair - your days of buffering could be coming to an end

See inside for more details
Good news! You’re receiving this leaflet because your area qualifies for full fibre broadband – funded by the Government and Dorset Council.

The Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme can help people in rural areas get new broadband technology offering speeds far greater than superfast. This leaflet sets out how the scheme works and what you need to do next.

What is the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme?

This scheme aims to help small and medium sized businesses and residential homes receive a future-proof, full fibre broadband connection.

In qualifying areas people can come together and claim up to £6,000 per business and up to £2,500 per household. This is combined funding from the Government and Dorset Council. The Dorset Council element of the funding is capped at £1million and will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

This voucher funding, available until 31 March 2021, will go towards providing a gigabit-capable broadband connection (1,000 megabits per second).

How do I apply?

A household or business must register their interest with a chosen supplier and check if the scheme is suited to them and their neighbours. You can double check if your area is eligible for the voucher scheme and find a list of suppliers for your area at

www.gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk

How does the funding work?

You cannot get faster broadband on your own, you need to join with at least one other household or business. You may need a cluster of homes and businesses to raise enough vouchers to cover the cost of your scheme. On the few occasions where there is a funding shortfall, the supplier must provide a quote before any work can go ahead.

Will I have to take an expensive broadband service?

Although the technology will enable you to take an ultrafast service, you do not have to take a high speed service. However using a gigabit voucher to fund your connection requires you to take a 12 month service that offers speeds of at least 30 megabits per second (mbps), or if you currently receive at least 30mbps, a service that is double your current speed.

What is the process from application to installation?

1. Create your cluster of voucher applicants
2. Find a registered supplier and contact them to request a gigabit-capable connection under the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
3. A supplier requests a voucher from the Government. They check applicants are happy to go ahead by email
4. The supplier gets to work to deliver the new connection
5. Connected! The supplier lets the government know the work is done
6. Government checks with residents/businesses by email that the service is live and working
7. Government will sometimes make further checks before paying the supplier
8. The Government and Dorset Council pays the voucher and top-up funding directly to the supplier

How long does it take from applying for a voucher to getting faster broadband?

The time taken to get to installation depends on each scheme (some will be more complex than others) and how long it takes for a community to rally enough interest to make the scheme viable.