



# Briefing Note

Briefing Note: **Broadband Update for North Somerset**

**36B**

Date Issued: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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*This new Briefing Note is to update parishes in North Somerset about current developments.*

## Phase One

This first phase is now effectively completed between Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) and BT. This phase has predominantly been for getting fibre to the cabinets and utilising existing copper cabling from the cabinet to premises. As part of this phase BT had to reach a certain take up as part of their contract. Once this percentage uptake was reached a 'gainshare' or clawback provision was triggered. This additional funding has to be spent by BT on additional BT equipment. What isn't yet clear is how much of this funding will come back into our area and where it will be spent.

## Get up to speed training

As part of the Phase One programme there was a limited amount of training. This is being provided under the banner of "get up to speed" and is mainly being delivered in Devon and Somerset. A few courses are being delivered in our area and its worth checking the website at <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/get-up-to-speed/introduction/> to see if there are any courses locally and relevant.

## Phase Two

As announced in the summer Gigaclear plc have been awarded the contract for the next part of the broadband roll-out in the Lot One area (B&NES and North Somerset). Due to a delay in the awarding of the contract due to a legal challenge of the procurement our phase is over 6 months behind the rest of the CDS area. Despite earlier expectations we are not anticipating that a formal announcement will be made of definitive areas covered by Gigaclear until the end of November/beginning of December.

Although its been over a year since we first proposed the workshops we are still intending to hold an event with Gigaclear on this issue of community engagement but they are reluctant to embark on this until the plans are confirmed. As soon as we have sorted this with them we will contact Clerks.

At the moment we are advising people to visit the Gigaclear webpage <https://www.gigaclear.com/postcode-checker/> to register an interest and to find out if you may (and this is subject to confirmation) be in a Gigaclear roll-out area.

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West of England Rural Network, The Mill, Tunbridge Road, Chew Magna, Bristol BS40 8SP  
T: 01275 333 701 • W: wern.org.uk • E: info@wern.org.uk



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**Working with ACRE in South Gloucestershire,  
Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and Bristol**



After you put your postcode in you will get one of three messages though;

1. Web page saying *“Please complete the following so that we can measure the level of interest in your area and keep you informed of progress.”* This means there is no planned Gigaclear service as the area is already ‘covered’ by Phase 1
2. Drop down box requesting individual premises then a page saying: *“Congratulations, Gigaclear and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) are working together to bring the UK's fastest broadband to your community, as part of several build phases between now and the end of 2019”* This is likely to be part of the CDS Phase 2 programme area and you can register an interest.
3. Drop down box requesting premises then a page saying *“Great News: Gigaclear is bringing the UK's fastest broadband to your property. Gigaclear will be installing a new, Fibre To The Premises broadband network in your area over the next 3 years”* This is a commercial area and as such a number of commercial suppliers has informed CDS that they intended to supply to the area by 2020, so in this case Gigaclear would be like BT or Truespeed or another commercial supplier.

### **New Apparatus**

We have prepared a separate very detailed briefing note and guidance for Parishes where new apparatus (cabinets, poles, masts and lines) are to be installed. This is particularly relevant for areas not covered by Phase One where there was minimal new equipment. A number of issues have already been raised about this and the guidance should assist.