

Dear superfastsurrey,

Thank you for the latest newsletter. I write as a Surrey resident who is interested in the technical and economic aspects of the superfastsurrey project and wishes to understand the facts behind the publicity.

From the links in the newsletter I found this release of the 16th July, 2014.

<http://superfastsurrey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/phase-4-press-release-SS-web-version.pdf>

This states the following:

“Peter Martin, Surrey County Council’s Deputy Leader, said: “The benefits are considerable economically and socially with Surrey’s economy being boosted by an estimated £30 million annually and homes getting fast, reliable internet access.”

On the SCC website the annual report has the following statements.

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/648796/CS2614-Annual-Report-2012-13-Final2.pdf

On Page 8 - The council aims to ensure all Surrey businesses and households can enjoy the economic, social and other benefits of reliable superfast broadband, which could boost the local economy by around £28m a year.

“Our investment to ensure that almost 100% of the county has access to superfast broadband coverage ---” extract from David Hodge – Leader’s Statement

I have two questions relating to these statements:

1. While the likely improvements in the local economy are estimates and that may be while Peter Martin uses a different figure to the annual report, how exactly will any improvement down to the public investment in broadband be evaluated after the project completes?
2. The European Commission’s understanding of the UK’s definition of superfast is defined in paragraph 7 of their document giving their reasons for allowing state aid for the UK broadband network.

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/cases/243212/243212_1387832_172_1.pdf

“The UK defines superfast broadband as speeds greater than those available on current generation network infrastructure⁶, and which is delivered over next generation networks capable of providing at least 30 Mbps download speeds.”

(Footnote 6 says, “In most cases, the top of the current generation network infrastructure is ADSL2+, which can provide a maximum of 24Mbps.”

Even the EU accept the UK argument that superfast speeds everywhere will not be possible, for example see paragraph 12 of the EC document.

I would expect Surrey County Council's definition of superfast broadband to be the same as the UK's, so why is the term used by David Hodge to say that almost 100% of Surrey premises will have access to superfast speeds?

I do hope that you can provide some clarification.

Dear Mr Cooper

Thank you for your email.

The roll out of fibre broadband will have a huge positive impact on the economic and social development of Surrey – an economic benefit calculated at more than £30m (World Bank estimate – based on GDP) every year. Surrey County Council will be seeking to evaluate the economic impact on the County at the conclusion of the programme.

In support of Surrey's ambition to extend fibre coverage to as many homes and business in the County as possible, the Superfast Surrey Programme has balanced available budget against speeds and coverage in order to provide speeds that the majority of people will be satisfied with now to the maximum number of premises. Our contract is delivering a next generation network solution (NGA) which is capable of download speeds up to 80 Mbps (FTTC) and 330Mbps (FTTP) and in conjunction with commercial rollouts, will bring the fibre network coverage to close to 100% of homes and businesses across Surrey. As well as a high proportion of businesses and residents throughout Surrey being able to achieve superfast speeds as part of our programme, the provision of fibre coverage will enable homes and premises to take advantage of future innovations and technologies as they become available.

Kind regards