



# W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L

Report to Council

Subject

## Broadband Availability within West Bergholt

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### 1.0 Background

Broadband in the village is a service that is provided by three main contractors within the village:

**British Telecom** – Fibre Broadband: available along Colchester Road, the School & Brewery Developments

**County Broadband** – Radio Broadband: available majority of village with line of sight to transmitters.

**Virgin** – Fibre Broadband: available to houses around and within the “Triangle” of the main village.

There is still a large number of houses without provision and a number of complaints about patchy or poor bandwidth on the radio broadband network.

Many households are only able to receive Virgin and whilst the service appears to be good, the annual price increases are significant and with no other providers there is little competition.

There are no commercial covenants on the village for Broadband supply, but due to commercial interests in the village it has reduced the Superfast Broadband funding availability.



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## 2.0 ECC Network Availability Map

Blue dot indicates superfast broadband is not available.





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### 3.0 Considerations

Superfast Essex which is the roll out scheme for rural Broadband has data for 1503 addresses in West Bergholt.

Of this 1503, 1115 addresses (74.18%) already have a gigabit-capable service provided by a commercial operator. This is provided by either Openreach, County Broadband or Virgin Media (depending on the address) and is provided by a full fibre line and not wireless connectivity.

47 additional addresses (3.13%) are in plans for a gigabit-capable broadband service, but the service has not yet been delivered.

There are 341 addresses (22.69%) not having access to a superfast service and not being in any plans for a gigabit-capable broadband service.

Regarding addresses that are not in plans, Superfast Essex has tried to reach as many addresses as we can across Essex with the money made available for this rollout scheme. However, as Essex is a large county, they've not been able to make fibre broadband available to everyone. Their programme is designed to use the available funding to best effect, and this has historically meant prioritising areas where the investment to upgrade can reach the most homes and businesses.



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## 4.0 Recommendations

As we've reached an impasse with the funding having already been spent we will need to explore other avenues of financing or await further funding roll outs.

There are a number of other funds which could be explored offering business's connectivity.