

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following question was received from a resident representing the FibreValley Community Broadband Group:

We would like to ask, what this Council is going to do to help make our campaign a success and ensure that residents and businesses across all of the Worth Valley overcome growing disadvantage and are able to fully benefit from high speed Internet access to council, NHS, educational and business services now and in the future?

**Response from the Leader**

Bradford Council is committed to supporting broadband to the whole district including the rural areas, and is a partner in the Superfast West Yorkshire project. This aims to achieve the ambitions of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, and Calderdale for improved broadband infrastructure where the commercial market was not intending to invest. The project has been successful in drawing down investment funds from the UK government, European Union and the four Councils. The programme went out to tender on a government devised framework. BT Openreach won the tender and agreed to invest their own funds in the project as well.

The project will deliver access to superfast broadband to 97% of the areas covered by the Councils. In the remaining areas broadband speeds will be brought up to a minimum speed of 2mb or greater. The whole project will be completed by the autumn of 2015. The total cost of the programme is £22m. The infrastructure will mostly consist of fibre to the cabinets for the superfast broadband. It will not connect individual properties. A range of alternative technologies will have to be considered for giving access to 2mb broadband in the final 3% of the area.

The contract has just started and therefore initial tests and surveys are being carried out to determine the exact type of works required and the exact work schedule.

The project management team has been appointed the website is now available see: <http://www.superfastwestyorkshire.co.uk/> On this there is an opportunity for residents and businesses to learn more and to register interest in superfast broadband. According to previous BT Openreach public announcements much of Keighley and the Worth Valley are already able to access superfast broadband due to work completed through their commercial capital investment programme.

The actual delivery of superfast broadband, by an ISP, to any individual residence or business will remain a commercial decision. So it would be wise for communities to group together to demonstrate directly to ISPs that the services are required and people are willing to pay for them. There are some

areas where it might not be feasible to install superfast broadband on a value for money basis due to the high costs of installation, little commercial return and the limited public subsidy available. These are the areas where the council will ensure have the minimum 2mb service available.