

An Open Letter to the Connecting Cheshire Superfast Broadband Initiative from the Parish of High Legh

The Parish of High Legh welcomes the Cheshire Broadband Initiative and the vision of enabling the region to exceed the government's target of 90% superfast broadband coverage by 2015.

The Parish of High Legh currently has no superfast broadband coverage outside the village centre and only partial coverage in the village itself. Download speeds using normal broadband are low in these areas and there is no service available in the West of the Parish.

In a recent detailed survey in the Parish (see attached document) over 90% of residents in the areas where superfast broadband is not available said that they needed the service for business, education and leisure use. Take-up of the superfast broadband in the areas where it is available is high and we understand there is now a lack of capacity.

In view of the current poor service availability, the high demand, and the demonstrated high take-up when superfast broadband is available, the Parish requests that the Connecting Cheshire Initiative considers the needs of our area at the earliest point within the project. As a Parish we are committed to working with the project in any way that we can and recognise that this could include assistance with surveying work and information, assistance with issues associated with the siting of any new cabinets or routing of any new cables, and practical help 'digging trenches' if this proves to be necessary.

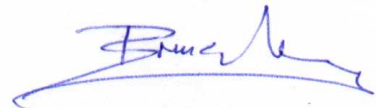
From our survey we believe that there are some 'quick wins' for the Initiative within the Parish that will be good early success stories for the project.



Councillor Stephen Wilkinson
*High Legh Ward Councillor
Cheshire East Council*



Councillor Tony Haigh
*Chairman
High Legh Parish Council*



Councillor Bruce Adams
*Chairman
High Legh Parish Plan Implementation*

Copy circulation:

Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Tatton Constituency
Councillor Michael Jones, Leader Cheshire East Council
Councillor David Brown, Deputy Leader and Strategic Communities Portfolio Holder, Cheshire East Council
Mr Kim Ryley, Interim Chief Executive, Cheshire East Council
Ms Caroline Simpson, Acting Strategic Director Place & Organisational Capacity, Cheshire East Council
Mr Bill Murphy, Managing Director Next Generation Access, BT Group
Mr Andrew Arditti, Connecting Cheshire Initiative
Mr Julian Cobley, Connecting Cheshire Initiative

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