

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
25th January 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Martin Weale, Portfolio Holder for
Regeneration and Planning**

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Kathryn Silk

What percentage of householders and businesses in Powys has access to broadband speeds of 10Mbps or greater?

Answer

The availability of broadband services across Powys varies according to the type of infrastructure that has been installed or is being accessed. The expanse of the county and rural nature requires a variety of approaches. The latest figures available from Think Broadband.com (June 2017) indicate that the following levels of coverage have been achieved in Powys:

- Just over 80% of premises have access to broadband speeds of 10MBs and above.
- In terms of UK standard Superfast Broadband (minimum download speed 24MBs) approximately 77% of premises in Powys are able to access services.
- In terms of Openreach Full Fibre availability (the highest available speed) Powys has 15.93% of premises connected.

What is the Cabinet doing to ensure that all households and businesses have such access?

Answer

- The Council has supported Welsh Government in delivering the roll out of broadband infrastructure across Powys during Phase 1 of its implementation programme up to the end of December 2017.
- This support will continue in the next phase of the programme from January 2018-2023 which will aim to address the hard to reach locations not covered in the first phase of the programme.
- The Council is working with Welsh Government to encourage the take up of the new service by businesses and domestic users across Powys.
- In July 2017, the Council provided a consultation response to the Welsh Government Consultation on Next Generation Access Broadband. The

response highlighted potential geographic areas within Powys that should be prioritised for Phase 2 of the programme and emphasised the importance of supporting alternative solutions for connecting isolated communities and businesses.

- Supporting the delivery of improved digital connectivity and take up across the County has also been included as is a prioritised action within the Council's Vision 2025 Economy Programme.

What assessment has the Cabinet made of the economic disadvantage suffered by households and businesses that do not have such access?

Answer

- The Council has assessed the impact of broadband provision in Powys through the evidence base gathered for the Powys Well Being of Future Generations Action Plan. An analysis undertaken of internet speeds at 131 Powys village hall postcode locations in September 2016 confirmed that outside of the main urban centres connectivity was a significant issue in rural communities.
- Evidence of the economic impact on businesses has been obtained through Superfast Broadband Workshop events hosted across Powys since 2015.