



Faster Broadband Options

Please be assured we are aware that a significant number of mainly rural premises have yet to benefit from investment in faster broadband. Connecting Cheshire are actively seeking to secure additional funding that will enable us to invest in reaching more communities; in the meantime, the options below are available to help you secure a faster speed:

1. If you currently experience broadband speeds of less than 2Mbps, the **Better Broadband Voucher Scheme** may be able to help you access a basic broadband service that will offer download speeds of at least 10 Mbps. This provides a voucher worth up to £350 for a satellite or wireless broadband installation to homes, see more: <https://basicbroadband.culture.gov.uk/>

2. Alternatively providers such as Openreach offer a community funded option whereby a match of community and their own funding can be combined to provide a bespoke fibre solution to your locality, see the **Community Fibre Partnerships** website: <https://communityfibre.openreach.co.uk/> (this can work alongside points 4 or 5 to help fund a group community scheme).

3. Also **4G Broadband** options may be available within your area, providers such as Vodafone and EE offer home broadband options using a signal booster. Search providers such as Vodafone or EE for their home or business packages.

4. The government's **Gigabit Voucher Scheme**, can only be spent on full-fibre networks i.e. Fibre to the Premise, but can offer £2,500 per business and £500 for each residential premise, as part of a group community scheme. See: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> for a list of approved suppliers.

5. In addition, businesses and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in Cheshire are now eligible for additional funding via the **Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme** towards the cost of installing fibre to their premises when part of a group project. Rural premises, experiencing speeds below 30 Megabit per second (Mbps), will be eligible for up to £3,500 per business and up to £1,500 per resident. Any postcode that falls into the rural voucher scheme will be highlighted when using the checker available via this link: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/>

6. A national **Universal Service Obligation** for broadband is currently under development by Ofcom, which will give people in the UK the right to request a decent and affordable broadband connection if they current receive under 10Mbps. This is expected to become operational next year, more information is available via: www.ofcom.org.uk (search USO).

www.connectingcheshire.org.uk

