

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO bdukconsultations@dcms.gov.uk BY FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY 2021

Planning for Gigabit Delivery in 2021

Help us by providing feedback in the space provided

Questions	Response
<p><i>Please provide feedback on the proposed large procurement areas and if proposing any changes provide accompanying rationale. Are the boundaries in the right places? Are the areas the right size - would smaller or larger be better? We will use this feedback to refine boundaries.</i></p>	<p>Attached to this response are a map and a dataset setting out the current position of non-Superfast premises in Lancashire. These premises need to be prioritised when devising procurement lots.</p> <p>Given the lack of confirmed data from an Open Market Review it is not possible to provide detailed changes to the proposed large procurement other than it should not leave individual communities/properties outside delivery and create artificial divides.</p> <p>For example the proposed large procurement lot includes the village of Nateby with the adjacent town of Garstang included in commercial coverage. How will public and commercial activity be co-ordinated to ensure maximum connectivity? There are also indications that some areas proposed to be covered by commercial delivery are currently outside commercial plans and may be required to be included in any public intervention.</p> <p>Before the procurement lots are confirmed they should be discussed in more detail with the relevant local authorities to address this type of issue.</p>

<p><i>Please provide specific proposals for small area procurement bundles, including rationale. Are there smaller areas of the right characteristics (of the right size, including sub-superfast premises and including a blend of more expensive and cheaper premises) which you feel would be suitable for DPS procurements? When would you ideally like these procurements to start? We will use this feedback to build more small area procurement bundles where we know there is demand and capability.</i></p>	<p>Experience of previous large procurements has shown that they can miss more isolated/difficult to reach properties. Once we have more up to date information from Building Digital UK the county council will be able to assess the need for different size procurements. This will be particularly important for smaller groups of premises in areas that are currently indicated as being included in commercial plans but may be omitted.</p>
<p><i>Please provide views on how we have constructed the example small (DPS) procurement areas in Annex A, including the way we have selected an intervention area and the use of MSOA/LSOA boundaries. How can we make these bundles as attractive as possible to the market? We will use feedback to create a repeatable process which can be used to generate interventions for the small (DPS) procurement areas. It's important this process aligns with engineering and commercial objectives.</i></p>	<p>It should be recognised that not all communities and properties will be commercially attractive and that alternative approaches will be required to ensure that all communities have access to Gigabit connectivity. BDUK need to consider other ways of developing digital infrastructure in the hardest to reach communities that are not part of large and commercial procurements. The use of the lower level data is to be welcomed.</p>
<p><i>Where do you feel vouchers are a better way to achieve delivery? Please explain the rationale for your answer and whether you think there are strategic improvements we could make to the scheme. This will help us determine whether areas should be procured, and whether there are any strategic improvements we can make to the voucher scheme.</i></p>	<p>Given the take up of rural Gigabit vouchers in Lancashire (£1m+) it is evident that they are a flexible demand led solution to connectivity issues which allow for smaller more agile providers to get involved.</p> <p>However, the demand led approach has meant that the use of vouchers is not always coordinated well with larger procured delivery. This is something that would need to be rectified going forward in order to ensure comprehensive coverage, no duplication and a clear pathway for residents and businesses to access enhanced digital connectivity. At the same time as agreeing the properties to be covered by public and commercial intervention those properties that will require Gigabit Vouchers should also be identified.</p>