

# Borders Broadband Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

Briefing Note No.3 ♦ November 2011

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband) [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband)

## Working together to bring high-speed broadband providers to Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

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- [Demand Stimulation](#): We are building our case to prove to commercial broadband infrastructure providers that there is a high level of demand for fast broadband from local people, communities and businesses, with the launch of the household and business surveys Page 3
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### The story so far ...

Visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband) or [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband) for:

- Earlier Borders Broadband briefings
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Press releases
- The map outlining Phase One area of the Borders Broadband project
- Background information

*Borders Broadband: working together to bring high-speed broadband providers to rural Herefordshire and Gloucestershire*



## LATEST NEWS:

### Outline solutions received from suppliers; complex process moves to competitive dialogue

#### Procurement Update

The Borders Broadband Project was awarded national Government money to select a supplier to develop a network of high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

Access to this infrastructure will then be offered on a wholesale basis to a number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) allowing them to provide quality broadband to communities and businesses in both counties.

The selection of the supplier is at an important stage with outline solutions having been received. Between November and the end of December, competitive dialogue will take place with those suppliers to understand the technologies that will be used, what the costs will be and how soon the network will be deployed.

Following this dialogue the suppliers will be selected to submit their detailed solutions in February 2012 before submitting their final tender.

#### IMPORTANT

#### Reminder of the protocol during procurement

This is a highly complex procurement and there are strict protocols to ensure that we remain open, fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. In line with EU Procurement Directives, adhering to these principals is mandatory.

During this process individuals may be approached by potential suppliers about this project. As we need to ensure we do not inadvertently disadvantage any potential providers and jeopardise the process, individuals should not attempt to provide responses to any questions raised.

Any queries from suppliers need to be referred to Bob Gennard, Assistants Contracts Manager at Herefordshire Council 01432 261617 or [rgennard@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rgennard@herefordshire.gov.uk).

Please note this notice will remain in place for the duration of the procurement stage which is planned to end in May 2012.

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## Involving communities and business to prove demand

The Project Team has been developing a plan and work programme of 'demand stimulation' activities to support the case for the private sector providers to invest in the wholesale network to bring better and faster broadband into our rural communities in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

It is important that local communities and groups across the two counties are involved in raising awareness of the benefits of the internet so residents and businesses can take full advantage of the investment made in faster and more accessible broadband.

The ability to bring the best high-speed broadband to the rural areas within Herefordshire and Gloucestershire will, in part, depend on proving that the demand exists in the area and that the provision will be commercially viable in the long term.

That's why it's vital to encourage every household and business to take part and complete the Borders Broadband surveys, which have now been launched.

FastBroadband4Herefordshire, the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, business groups, local media and other local groups are helping to promote the household survey and on-line business survey.

### Household questionnaire

To date (November 11<sup>th</sup> 2011) over 2,500 household questionnaires have been completed, with around 100,000 printed questionnaires being distributed across Herefordshire and Gloucestershire using a range of methods including household delivery by Broadband Champions, by post, in local libraries, council offices and community centres.

The household questionnaire is also available online at [www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk](http://www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk) and [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband)

For additional hard copies of the household questionnaire, in Gloucestershire, contact Chris Cowcher, Gloucestershire Rural Community Council on 01452 528491 or in Herefordshire, contact Nadine Kinsey, Herefordshire Council on 01432 260706.

### Business questionnaire

The business survey is online at <http://bit.ly/betterbroadband> (if you run a local business and live in rural Herefordshire or Gloucestershire, you can complete both household and business surveys). To date (November 11<sup>th</sup> 2011) almost 800 business surveys have been completed.

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## Keeping communities informed. More than 130 volunteer community champions recruited so far.

The project team is keen to keep local communities, via Parish & Town Councils and ward members, up to date on progress. A series of 16 meetings have now taken place with parish and town councils in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

A volunteer force of 'Broadband Champions' is being recruited across the two counties to link local communities to the project, and help co-ordinate information about their localities. To date 134 champions have been recruited across the counties.

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## Case studies

We are building a portfolio of case studies from businesses and communities which are already working efficiently with enhanced broadband use, or are suffering badly from its absence, to help us promote the benefits and encourage support for the campaign and completion of the demand survey.

Please contact the team if you are aware of any individuals or businesses which may be useful in this respect, as we want to build up a library of 'human' stories and experiences that could use for publicity purposes.

Contacts:

- Herefordshire: Alan Ronald 01432 260177 and Nadine Kinsey 01432 260706, both contactable via [bordersbroadband@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bordersbroadband@herefordshire.gov.uk)
- Gloucestershire: Angela Presdee 01452 328309 [angela.presdee@glosfirst.co.uk](mailto:angela.presdee@glosfirst.co.uk)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

The Project Team has produced and will continue to maintain and update a set of frequently asked questions which are available on our websites [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/broadband) and [www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband](http://www.gfirst.co.uk/broadband)

If you have a specific question, which has not yet been added, please let us know. Email - [bordersbroadband@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bordersbroadband@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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November 1<sup>st</sup> 2011