



Superfast Cymru 2 – Monmouthshire County Council Update May 2019

What has happened to date?

Superfast Cymru 1 was Welsh Government's broadband infrastructure delivery programme. Through the programme Welsh Government, via a contract with BT, provided Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband to 95% of Wales, to areas that were uneconomically viable to be delivered through the private sector's own commercial programmes. Superfast Cymru 1 was delivered utilising funding from Welsh Government, the UK Government, the European Union and BT. Since the project began in 2013, the availability of superfast broadband across Wales has more than doubled from 44% to 95%, however there are still areas where little or no broadband exists.

To address the remaining areas which currently have no broadband access or there are no commercial plans to deliver broadband in the next three years, Welsh Government launched Superfast Cymru 2 in 2018. In Monmouthshire, NGA broadband coverage rates are at 87.4% which means that there are still 12.6% of our 44,000 premises that have limited or not access to broadband, equating to approximately 6-8,000 premises, depending upon the outcome of additional reviews that are also currently taking place.

In March 2019, Welsh Government appointed BT to deliver NGA broadband to approximately 1600 premises in Monmouthshire. Details of when and where the rollout will take place are currently being confirmed.

How do you find out if Superfast Cymru 2 is coming to you?

Welsh Government have launched a website which provides an overview of the Superfast Cymru 2 programme and the options that are available. If you wish to check if your property will be receiving NGA broadband via Superfast Cymru 2 please enter your postcode and address into this area the website: <https://gov.wales/go-superfast/what-are-my-options>

What are the options if Superfast Cymru is not coming to you?

Whilst Monmouthshire is a beautiful county, the sparsity of the population, the rurality of the landscape and its topography does not lend itself to well to the installation of broadband infrastructure. Monmouthshire County Council is therefore working with Welsh Government and other commercial broadband providers to identify solutions to bring broadband to more isolated premises and communities, outside of the Superfast Cymru 2 programme. As new opportunities become available the County Council will inform communities accordingly.

In the interim, grants are available via Welsh Government's Access Broadband Cymru scheme for individuals to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections to their homes and businesses. The amount of funding you can receive depends on the speed of the new connection: £400 for 10Mbps and above and £800 for 30Mbps and above. For further information visit: <https://gov.wales/go-superfast/boost-your-broadband>.

For businesses wishing to upgrade to a gigabit-capable broadband connection, there is additional funding available whereby businesses can claim £2500 against the cost of the connection, individually or as part of a group project. Residents can claim a voucher worth £500 as part of a group project with a business. However, for group projects, the Welsh Government will pay up to an additional £3,000 per small to medium-sized business (SME) and an additional £300 per residential property. This means that for group projects in Wales up to £5,500 is available per business and up to £800 is available per residential property. For more information visit <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/wales/>.