

SUBJECT:	RURAL BROADBAND UPDATE
MEETING:	PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	12 JANUARY 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on rural broadband following a request by the Place Scrutiny Committee made on 30th June 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To receive the update on rural broadband as presented.

3. KEY ISSUES

Background¹

- 3.1 Telecommunications is a reserved power to the UK Parliament, and the UK Government has primary responsibility for setting broadband coverage and coverage targets.

Superfast

- 3.2 From 2010, UK Government policy focused on the roll-out of ‘superfast’ broadband – usually defined as broadband with download speeds of 30 Megabits per second.
- 3.3 Superfast broadband has mostly been delivered by Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC) technology when fibre optic cables run into a street cabinet and then existing copper telephone wires run from the cabinet to individual premises. FTTC relies on using the copper telephone network that is owned and operated by Openreach, the infrastructure division of BT group. Communications providers, including BT, Sky and TalkTalk but also hundreds more, then deliver broadband services to consumers using Openreach’s network.
- 3.4 Superfast broadband can also be provided by cable (Virgin Media O2), fixed-wireless (for example, provided by Broadway Partners in parts of Monmouthshire) or mobile (4G).

Gigabit-capable

- 3.5 The focus of Government and industry is now providing ‘gigabit-capable’ broadband (download speeds of at least 1 gigabit-per second; 1 Gbps or 1000 Mbps). Gigabit-capable broadband can be delivered by technologies such as full-fibre (FTTP, fibre from the local exchange direct to each premises), high-speed cable (Virgin Media O2) and possibly 5G.

¹ Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 7.

- 3.6 UK Government has a target for gigabit broadband to be available across the UK by 2030, and it remains committed to reaching 85% coverage by 2025.² It is estimated that 20% of premises, mostly in rural areas, will require public funding to be provided with a gigabit-capable broadband connection.
- 3.7 Devolved administrations and local authorities are often involved in the delivery of broadband infrastructure projects. Welsh Government's broadband strategy is set out in its Digital Strategy for Wales.³ It manages the Superfast Cymru project and its extension/successor contracts, which were arranged under the UK Government's previous funding programme and in recent years have delivered gigabit-capable connections.

Current situation and future position in Monmouth constituency and Monmouthshire

- 3.8 There are two main sources of data on current broadband coverage in the UK: Ofcom's Connected Nations reports⁴ (published twice yearly) and Thinkbroadband's data⁵ (published weekly).
- 3.9 The House of Commons Library's analysis of Ofcom's data provides a comparison of Monmouth constituency (including urban and rural area split) to Wales and the UK against various broadband indicators:⁶

Area	Average download speed Mbps	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Receiving under 10 Mbps	Receiving over 30 Mbps
Monmouth	56.1	86.7%	26.1%	2.5%	14.0%	68.0%
-- Urban Areas	62.2	97.7%	34.6%	0.0%	8.9%	75.1%
-- Rural Areas	47.2	70.5%	13.6%	6.1%	21.5%	57.7%
Wales	69.5	94.2%	44.9%	0.8%	9.0%	76.3%
UK	86.5	95.6%	64.0%	0.3%	7.0%	78.2%

Around 58.9% of the constituency's population lives in an area classified as urban

- 3.10 It also compares Medium Super Output Areas within the constituency to other areas of the UK, this indicates that some of the most rural parts of the county, such as Raglan and Llantillio Crossenny, are amongst the worst 10% of areas in the UK when it comes to many measures of broadband connectivity:

² Gigabit-broadband in the UK: Government targets and policy, House of Commons Library, February 2022, available at: [CBP-8392.pdf \(parliament.uk\)](#), pg. 14.

³ [Digital strategy for Wales \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁴ [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

⁵ <https://www.thinkbroadband.com/broadband-data>

⁶ House of Commons Library Constituency Data: broadband coverage speeds data dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#); this dashboard also produces analysis and enables comparison by Medium Super Output Area.

Which small areas overlapping the constituency have the best and worst connectivity?

Key to table shading:

Best 10% of areas in the UK

Best 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 30% of areas in the UK

Worst 10% of areas in the UK

You can also view [maps of small area data](#)

Area name	Average download speed (Mbps)	Superfast availability	Gigabit availability	Unable to receive decent broadband	Lines receiving under 10 Mbps	Lines receiving over 30 Mbps
Abergavenny North	45.6	99.4%	29.6%	0.0%	7.8%	72.3%
Abergavenny South & Crucorney	42.6	86.4%	39.1%	4.5%	14.1%	62.1%
Caldicot North & Caer-went	45.5	80.6%	7.0%	2.9%	14.4%	65.8%
Chepstow North & Trellech	69.8	80.6%	27.0%	5.1%	17.8%	64.3%
Chepstow South	61.0	99.8%	10.2%	0.0%	6.4%	83.2%
Croesyceiliog	86.1	97.8%	71.5%	0.1%	10.6%	79.0%
Gilwern & Llanfoist	45.8	88.2%	21.9%	0.3%	11.5%	65.8%
Llantarnam & Oakfield	78.3	95.8%	45.1%	0.0%	12.1%	83.7%
Monmouth & Wyesham	60.3	94.0%	23.8%	0.0%	11.3%	69.9%
Rhaglan & Llantilio Crossenny	44.1	54.2%	15.3%	12.2%	33.1%	44.6%
Usk, Goytre & Llangybi Fawr	53.2	75.4%	8.1%	2.3%	15.4%	65.1%

Note that some of the areas shown may overlap only partially with the constituency. See the notes below for details.

- 3.11 Welsh Government's Open Market Review⁷(OMR) is the main source of data at individual premises level, on future rollout plans and the likely future situation with regards to broadband coverage. Through the Review process, Welsh Government seeks to understand where private sector investment in broadband networks has occurred, is currently being built, or is planned within the next three years.
- 3.12 For Welsh Government, the OMR data allows them to classify premises according to their broadband coverage status. This classification then informs eligibility for receiving public funding (see Appendix A for a summary of this) and inclusion in future Welsh and UK Government interventions, such as Project Gigabit (see Appendix A). For the Council, the OMR data provides data that can be compared with other local authority areas in Wales, a detailed picture of which areas of the county are at risk of being left behind and may require intervention (for example, through the Local Broadband Fund, see Appendix A), and a dataset that can be used to provide premises-level advice and support in response to individual enquiries from residents.
- 3.13 The 2019 OMR and associated Public Review data showed that 2,494 or 5.1% of all premises in Monmouthshire (our 'digital deprivation rate') did not have access to broadband at over 30 Mbps⁸ and there were no plans for it to be available within three years (these premises are referred to as 'white'). A further 5,490 or 11.1% of all premises

⁷ [Broadband open market review 2021: summary of responses \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

⁸ 'Next Generation Access'.

were included in providers' plans for network coverage but the upgrades were not fully proven or completed (these premises are referred to as 'under review').

- 3.14 The recently shared 2021 OMR and linked 2022 Public Review data shows that these figures have significantly improved: as things stand, 1,238 or 2.5% of all premises in Monmouthshire are classified as 'white', and a further 2,610 or 5.2% of all premises are 'under review'. This compares favourably to the average figures for Wales, in which 5.1% of all premises are classified as 'white' and a further 7.3% as under review.
- 3.15 As well as Next Generation Access (30 Mbps and above) availability and plans, the 2021 OMR and linked 2022 Public Review also assessed gigabit-capable coverage. Again, the situation in Monmouthshire compares favourably to the Wales-wide data: 3,496 or 7% of premises in Monmouthshire were classified as 'white' for gigabit-capable coverage compared to 14% across Wales, and 5,701 or 14% of premises in Monmouthshire were classified as 'under review' for gigabit-capable coverage, compared to 39.2% across Wales. As such, if providers' plans are delivered as planned, at least 81.6% of premises in Monmouthshire should have access to gigabit-capable broadband from at least one provider within the next three years, compared to 46.8% across Wales.

The rollout of broadband in Monmouthshire

- 3.16 'Rolling out' improved broadband connectivity, whether in rural or urban settings, is a complicated process with many (often hidden) barriers, such as securing the necessary permissions from landowners to access land or install/replace infrastructure and needing to use historic infrastructure such as ducts or telephone poles that sometimes needs prior maintenance or replacement.

Full-fibre providers

- 3.17 As mentioned above, the focus of most policymaking and industry initiatives is the building of gigabit-capable, 'full fibre' broadband networks, which are the most future-ready networks available and the current gold standard of connectivity.
- 3.18 In Monmouthshire, as in most parts of Wales and the UK, full-fibre broadband rollouts are generally being delivered by Openreach (including through their subcontractors) and/or 'alternative providers' (the generic term for providers other than Openreach). In most cases and with some exceptions, alternative providers are newer, smaller companies that build networks and connect customers in areas that Openreach do not plan to build in – that is, they do not seek to compete directly with Openreach.

Openreach

- 3.19 Openreach is a company wholly owned by BT Group that maintains much of the telecommunications infrastructure (for example, telephone poles, cables, ducts, cabinets and exchanges) that connects/connected most UK homes and businesses to the national telephone and broadband network.
- 3.20 Openreach currently builds and connects premises to its full-fibre network in three main streams:
- Commercial rollout

- As a commercial company, Openreach invests significant amounts of non-public funds into upgrading its network.
- It has stated an 'ambition to reach 25 million homes and businesses [across the UK] by December 2026, if the right investment conditions are in place'.⁹
- It publishes a map and list of the areas to be upgraded in future online: [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)
- In Monmouthshire, Openreach plans to upgrade many (but almost certainly not all) premises connected to the Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Monmouth and Usk exchanges 'by December 2026'.
- Openreach does not provide the Council with any further information about its commercial rollout plans.
- Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract with Welsh Government¹⁰
 - Openreach also delivers the current Phase 2 Superfast Cymru contract, let and managed by Welsh Government. The contract has a total value of £52.5 million and will now continue to the end of March 2023 to connect a total of 37,137 premises with gigabit-capable fibre to the premises.
 - Due to past interpretations of state aid legislation, only premises that are without existing access to a superfast broadband connection and not included in providers' commercial build plans (as provided through the Open Market Reviews, see 3.11) are eligible to be provided with public support and included in this contract; as such, these premises are overwhelmingly in villages or more rural areas.
 - The nature of the contract means that Openreach conducts surveys of the pool of possible premises, then informs Welsh Government of the expected cost and seeks approval to continue ('approved to build'); as such, Welsh Government cannot direct Openreach to connect certain premises/areas.
 - Welsh Government provides infrequent updates to the Council as to the number of premises in the county connected through this contract and the list of premises planned to be connected through it.¹¹
 - As of October 2022, at least 1001 premises in Monmouthshire are now able to place an order for full-fibre broadband because of this rollout, and around a further 800 should be enabled before the end of March 2023.¹²
- Fibre Community Partnerships (formerly Community Fibre Partnerships)

⁹ [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#)

¹⁰ Openreach also delivered the Phase 1 Superfast Cymru contract, which was supported by £225 million of public funding and provided mainly Fibre to the Cabinet to

¹¹ Welsh Government also used to host an online checker that people could use to check directly if their premises was included in the rollout, but this was taken offline in September 2021.

¹² Including those built already, 1807 premises in Monmouthshire have been 'approved to build' by Welsh Government, but this does not guarantee they will be built, as unanticipated factors such as wayleave issues may prevent them from actually being built.

- This is a scheme in which Openreach ‘works with the local community’ to deliver full-fibre broadband.¹³ It typically focuses on smaller or more remote rural communities that are not in providers’ future plans for full-fibre.
- The Partnerships are funded by a combination of the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (see Appendix A), the community itself, and Openreach, and the build is due to be completed within 12 months of the funding being secured (although there are often significant delays).
- Fibre Community Partnerships (FCPs) have been used successfully to connect communities across the UK, but feedback from residents is that they can be a frustrating and drawn-out process, and it is clear that potential schemes are sometimes disrupted by Openreach’s own commercial or publicly subsidised activity.
- In March 2022, the scheme was put on hold for new applicants, due to overwhelming demand.
- Openreach provide the Council with a monthly update on FCPs within the county in order that Officers can provide additional advice and support to the community, as required. Current potential schemes in Monmouthshire include:
 - ‘Crucorney Bettws Cottages’;
 - ‘Chepstow Mouton House’;
 - ‘Monmouth St Maughans’; and
 - ‘Trelleck Rock Road’¹⁴

3.21 For an individual premises, the end result is the same regardless of by which route they have been connected: they are able to place an order¹⁵ from any of the full fibre supporting Internet Service Providers that use Openreach’s infrastructure.¹⁶

‘Alternative providers’ or ‘Altnets’

3.22 A number of smaller companies – although often backed by big investment – are building their own full-fibre networks, generally using some of Openreach’s infrastructure (for example, use of Openreach’s telephone poles or ducts to carry the fibre to premises).

3.23 Unlike on Openreach’s network, when a customer has a wide choice of communications providers with whom to take out a service, on alternative providers’ networks, the customer is often only able to take out a broadband service direct from the provider itself – although this may change in future.

3.24 In Monmouthshire, there are two main alternative providers of full-fibre broadband:

¹³ [Fibre Community Partnership | Openreach](#)

¹⁴ These potential schemes are at different stages. This list is non-exhaustive.

¹⁵ It is important to note that fibre builds will only take the fibre to a piece of infrastructure near a premises; only when a customer places an order with an Internet Service Provider will Openreach be tasked with running the fibre from the last piece of infrastructure to and then into the premises.

¹⁶ [Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband service providers | Openreach](#)

- Ogi (formerly known as Spectrum Internet) has announced a £200 million investment to extend their full-fibre network to cover 150,000 premises in south Wales.
 - These including premises in Abergavenny, Caerwent, Caldicot, Chepstow, Crick, Magor, Monmouth, Portskewett, Pwllmeyric, Rogiet, Sudbrook and Undy.¹⁷
 - The network build is largely complete in Abergavenny with most premises able to order a service, underway in Monmouth and soon to begin in Chepstow.
- Broadway Partners has secured £145 million investment to enable the rollout of their full-fibre network to cover 250,000 premises in rural Scotland and Wales by 2025.
 - The network build is complete in Llandewi Rhydderch and Llanarth and underway in Llanover.
 - In March 2021, MCC agreed to provide loan funding to a Special Purpose Vehicle wholly owned by Broadway Partners, ‘Monmouthshire Broadband Limited’, to enable them to build a mixed wireless and fibre network across Monmouthshire.¹⁸ As of July 2021, 34 of the planned 57 radio base station sites were completed, covering 8,000 premises. Since then, Broadway Partners’ new investment and other contextual changes have changed the focus of the scheme towards full fibre, and it is likely that the fibre network will replace much of the wireless network.

Other broadband technology rollouts

- 3.25 Other technologies, such as fixed-wireless access (including mobile broadband) and satellite, are also used to deliver improved broadband connectivity in the county. See Appendix A for further information about these technologies.
- 3.26 One example of a scheme utilising other technologies is a scheme being supported by the Council in the Llanthony Valley using grant funding from Welsh Government’s Local Broadband Fund. The scheme, is currently still in the design and planning phase but due to be completed later in the financial year, will use a mix of fixed-wireless technologies, including licenced 5G spectrum, to deliver a fast (superfast but not gigabit capable) and reliable internet connection to premises in the area.¹⁹

Sources of funding

- 3.27 Various funding schemes are available to industry and/or residents or businesses to improve broadband speeds. See Appendix A for further information.

4. AFFORDING BROADBAND DURING THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

¹⁷ [Boost for Wales's full fibre roll out - Ogi](#)

¹⁸ The investment is overseen by the MCC Investment Committee.

¹⁹ The challenging topography of and low density of premises within the area means that it is unlikely that building a fibre broadband network will be viable proposition for any provider in the foreseeable future.

Social tariffs

- 4.1 Several broadband providers, including BT, Sky and Virgin Media, offer cheaper long-term tariffs²⁰ for those receiving benefits such as Universal Credit and Pension Credit. See [Discounted 'social tariffs' for those on certain benefits \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/broadband/social-tariffs/) for an overview of some of these.

National Databank

- 4.2 The Good Things Foundation has developed a National Databank to provide free mobile data, calls and texts to people with a low-income – those at risk of data poverty: [National Databank - Good Things Foundation](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/national-databank/).

5. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 5.1 An evaluation is not required for this paper as the report is for information only and no policy or service change is proposed.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 6.1 An Options Appraisal is not required, as this paper is for information only.

7. REASONS

- 7.1 The ability to access broadband is an imperative for many citizens, particularly in terms of their ability to work from home to reduce travel costs and carbon impact or to access online services to address the cost-of-living crisis.

- 7.2 This latest Open Market Review data reveals a much-improved situation in Monmouthshire, with further improvements to be made over the next three years. However, we cannot be complacent and further work will continue to be done to identify potential solutions for those that remain at risk of being left behind.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no resource implications for the Council, this is a report for information only.

9. CONSULTEES

- Broadband companies operating in Monmouthshire
- Strategic Leadership Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

11. AUTHORS

Adam Greenwood, Rural Digital Project Officer
Cath Fallon, Head of Enterprise and Community Animation

12. CONTACT DETAILS

²⁰ Some providers may offer new customer-only tariffs or offers that are cheaper than social tariffs but for a shorter contract period.

E-mail: adamgreenwood@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644767

E-mail: cathfallon@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Mob: 07557 190969

Appendix A: Rural broadband additional information

13. OTHER BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY ROLLOUTS

- Fixed-wireless access
 - In a fixed-wireless access network, masts transmit radio signals through the air to small receivers on individual premises. Most fixed-wireless networks require unobstructed line of sight between the local mast and the premises. Such networks are typically deployed in very rural areas where the cost of deploying fibre is considered to be too high to be viable – although its popularity has appeared to decline in recent years as the cost of deploying full fibre has decreased at the same time as new investment in it has increased.
 - Fixed-wireless access networks are currently not capable of reliably providing gigabit speeds but above-superfast download speeds of 50-100 Mbps are common.
 - Several companies, including Bogons, Broadway Partners/Monmouthshire Broadband Limited and Countryside Connections, operate fixed-wireless access networks in different parts of the county.
- Mobile (4G and 5G)
 - A type of fixed-wireless broadband, mobile broadband. Connections use the 4G or 5G mobile networks put in place by the four major UK mobile network operators: BT/EE, O2, Three and Vodafone.
 - The capability of mobile broadband connections depends on multiple factors including signal strength (largely dependent on the distance between the premises and the nearest mast), mast speed and capacity (what speeds the mast can provide), and contention (how many other people are using the same mast at the same time).
 - Ofcom data suggests that 95-99% of premises in Wales have 4G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least one of the mobile network operators, but 10% of the geographic area of Wales is not covered by any operator.
 - Officers are aware that this data is imperfect and are working with a local start-up company, Streetwave, to get a better understanding of mobile coverage in the county.
 - At the moment, public 5G network coverage remains rare in Monmouthshire, but is available in Abergavenny on BT/EE and

Three and around Raglan on BT/EE²¹; across Wales, 27-38% of premises have 5G mobile coverage (outdoors) from at least of the mobile network operators.

- Satellite
 - Satellite broadband is transmitted wirelessly from an operations hub, to an orbiting satellite, and then to a satellite dish on a subscriber's premises.
 - In the past, the high cost of launching and maintaining satellite broadband networks meant that customer packages were relatively expensive and provided below superfast speeds with fairly high latency and significant restrictions on usage.
 - A new type of system – Low-Earth Orbit satellite – however, offers far higher speeds (as high as 200 Mbps download) and lower latency with much higher or no caps on usage. An example of this new type of satellite broadband is Starlink.

Sources of funding for broadband

UK-wide

- UK Government Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme²²
 - This is one element of UK Government's Project Gigabit programme.²³
 - It provides up to £210 million worth of voucher funding to people in rural areas experiencing slow broadband speeds.
 - On behalf of eligible premises, broadband operators can claim vouchers worth £1500 for homes and £3500 for businesses to contribute to the costs of installing gigabit broadband to groups of premises.
 - Until the end of March 2022, Welsh Government topped-up these amounts to £3000 for homes and £7000 for businesses.
 - Gigabit Vouchers are primarily used by alternative providers building fibre networks in rural areas (e.g., Broadway Partners) and often comprise the community's contribution towards an Openreach Fibre Community Partnership.²⁴

²¹ Raglan coverage was provided as a consequence of the Connected Communities in the Rural Economy/5G Wales Unlocked project in which MCC was a partner: [5G Wales Unlocked](#)

²² [Gigabit Vouchers \(culture.gov.uk\)](#)

²³ [Project Gigabit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

²⁴ For most prospective Fibre Community Partnership schemes, the main factor in its viability is the degree to which the estimated 'cost per premises' falls within the amount that can be claimed from the Voucher Scheme.

- Universal Service Obligation
 - The Universal Service Obligation is intended as a ‘safety net’ to deliver broadband to premises that do not have access to a decent broadband connection (defined by multiple parameters, including minimum 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, data usage of 100GB per month).
 - It gives eligible residents and businesses a legal right to request a decent broadband connection from BT and KCOM (in Hull), the providers
 - Any technology capable of delivering the minimum standards is eligible and the choice of technology is up to the provider. The cost threshold is £3400 per premises – above this, customer have the option of paying the excess costs.

Wales-specific

- Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme²⁵
 - This Welsh Government scheme provides grant to fund or part-fund the installation cost of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales.
 - New connections through the scheme must deliver a significant change in speed (at least double current download speeds)
 - The maximum grant available is £800 for new connections with speeds of 30 Mbps and above.
 - The scheme is applied for by residents and businesses, based on a quotation from an Internet Service Provider.
 - Grants from this scheme are typically used to fund the connection costs of a fixed-wireless (including mobile broadband) broadband connection.
- Local Broadband Fund
 - This £10 million Welsh Government fund is available to support local authorities and social enterprises to deliver broadband projects locally.
 - The funding can be used to deliver fast, reliable broadband in areas of Wales without access; create new broadband infrastructure; and upgrade existing broadband infrastructure.
 - The Council applied for two grants during the first application window and were successful with both: the Llanthony Valley community scheme and a carrier-grade upgrade scheme connected to the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited network. As

²⁵ [Access Broadband Cymru grant scheme | GOV.WALES](#)

the Monmouthshire Broadband Limited project changed in response to contextual changes, the carrier-grade upgrade scheme was deemed no longer required and the grant withdrawn.

Project Gigabit gap-funded supplier procurements

The main element of UK Government's Project Gigabit is the introduction of a Dynamic Purchasing Scheme, through which Internet Service Providers are invited to bid on contracts for providing gigabit capable coverage in intervention areas of different sizes. Areas with sub-30 Mbps speeds will be prioritised and the scheme is technology neutral (though full fibre is preferred).

In England, Broadband Delivery UK (an Executive Agency of UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) is managing the gap-funded supplier procurements. In Wales, the role of Welsh Government in Project Gigabit is still unknown, but we understand that the procurement process for Project Gigabit in Wales is expected to begin later in the year. Recent communication from BDUK has suggested that many premises in Monmouthshire will be included in regional lot 15 (Herefordshire), which they currently estimate will be procurement in Q2 2023, with contracts let in Q1 2024.

14. USEFUL RESOURCES

Data

14.1 Ofcom's Connected Nations reports and data: [Connected Nations and infrastructure reports - Ofcom](#)

14.2 House of Commons Library's 'Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds' Data Dashboard: [Constituency data: broadband coverage and speeds \(parliament.uk\)](#)

14.3 ThinkBroadband data: [UK Broadband Data | thinkbroadband](#)

Information

14.4 Openreach's Fibre Checker: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband#fibrechecker> (note that this only includes premises connected to Openreach's fibre network; other providers such as Ogi and Broadway Partners have their own checkers on their websites)

14.5 Project Gigabit Delivery Plan – spring update: [Project Gigabit Delivery Plan - spring update - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

14.6 Welsh Government Rolling out fibre broadband: [Rolling out fibre broadband | GOV.WALES](#)

Welsh Parliament Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee:
Digital connectivity – broadband: [CR-LD15290-E.PDF \(SENEDD.WALES\)](#)

Alternative providers known to be operating in Monmouthshire

14.7 Broadway Partners: <https://www.broadwaybroadband.co.uk/>

14.8 Bogons: [Bogons Ltd](#)

14.9 Country Connect: [Country Connect - Ultrafast Broadband Provider - Country Connect \(country-connect.co.uk\)](#)

14.10 Countryside Connections: [Countryside Connections – Rural Broadband Specialists \(countryside-connections.co.uk\)](#)

14.11 Ogi: <https://www.ogi.wales/>