



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

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## **PROVISION OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL NEW BUILDS**

We are writing to you today about the vital role local planning authorities have in supporting the rollout of superfast broadband when developing and updating Local Plans and considering planning applications.

Advanced high quality superfast broadband is essential for sustainable economic growth. Government and local authorities are [investing £1.7 billion](#) to bring superfast broadband to 95% of the United Kingdom by 2017.

As Council Leaders, you have a crucial role to play in supporting this ambitious target through your Local Plans and when considering planning applications to ensure wherever possible commercial and residential new builds are able to access superfast broadband. The policy on this is set out in Section five of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) and as such is a material consideration when determining planning applications.

The Framework also requires local planning authorities, in preparing and reviewing Local Plans to work with providers to assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure of strategic priority in your area and its ability to meet forecasted demands. Policy places the provision of telecommunications alongside other key infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House of Commons.

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**

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