

From: Jack Douglass
To: "newbuildconnectivity2018@culture.gov.uk"
Date: Thu Dec 20 2018 11:06:20 GMT-0000 (GMT)
Subject: Response to consultation on New Build Connectivity

Good morning,

Please find below a response to the government's consultation on New Build Developments. This response has been sent on behalf of Buckinghamshire's Digital Infrastructure Group, a dedicated cross-sector group which brings together the County and District Councils, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, the local growth hub Buckinghamshire Business First, and local businesses.

- Question 1
 - o Do you have any further evidence on the state of New Build Development connectivity in the UK?
§ N/A
- Question 2
 - o Do you have any information or evidence to suggest that the costs developers would incur under the proposed policy would prevent homes being built?
§ N/A
- Question 3
 - o We propose that developers would be obliged to provide a simple connectivity plan for their developments to LAs. This plan would demonstrate that developers had consulted with at least two network providers to provide gigabit-capable networks and inform LAs when a site is connected. Do you have any comments on this proposal for a connectivity plan?
§ In addition to the connectivity plan, guidance will be needed for Local Authorities to be able to "score" new developments effectively in order to include broadband provision as one of the utilities needed for new developments. Furthermore, we would suggest that guidance should be provided relevant to the size of the development, for instance, a housing development of 100 houses is not within the same scope as another development with 10,000 houses and commercial premises, which should have more responses from network providers, in a similar way to local government procurement frameworks.
- Question 4
 - o (a) Do you agree with the assumption that deploying the necessary infrastructure to deliver gigabit-capable networks is best achieved when the site is being built?
§ Absolutely. A lot of work has been undertaken to improve the connectivity for residents over the past few decades, and any new development without this provision will act as a set-back to this aim, as well as to potential economic growth
 - o (b) What technical specifications should the physical infrastructure (ducts etc) have?
§ This would be dependent on the size of the development taking place; however, it seems necessary to provide ducting for 120% of the premises included within build plans in order to assist with potential future development
 - o (c) Do you agree that developers should deploy, and pay for, the necessary infrastructure from the in-building connections to the boundary edge of the development?
§ Yes, as the attractiveness of a new build with cutting-edge connectivity is likely to be far higher than that for a new build without broadband, and therefore can be marketed to customers at a larger amount
- Question 5
 - o (a) Do you agree that developers should have to engage with at least two network operators who can provide gigabit-capable connections to the development?
§ As above, the number of network operators engaged should be directly proportional to the size of the development and the nature of the development (e.g. a large business park or a small housing development)
 - o (b) What further measures could we consider to promote the availability of networks from multiple providers at an early stage to minimise costs and disruption?
§ Unknown
- Question 6
 - o Taking £3,000 as a suggested aggregated cost cap per premise, do you agree with the proposed how should costs be divided between developer and operator?
§ Yes
- Question 7
 - o What information and evidence can you provide to help refine the 'in scope sites' policy design choice - aggregated cost cap or number of premises?
§ N/A
- Question 8
 - o (a) Do you agree that developers should have the overall responsibility to ensure Gigabit connectivity for their developments (allowing for the fact that developers can oblige operators to connect using the 'duty to connect' provision)?
§ Yes
 - o (b) How would this policy affect small housebuilders?
§ Unknown
- Question 9
 - o Do you have any comments on the proposed legislative approach? Do you have an alternative solution that would deliver gigabit-capable connections to NBDs?
§ N/A

Thanks,

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