



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC
& LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

BELP is funded and directed by public bodies within Buckinghamshire to enhance the economic and learning prospects within the County

A key aspect is the recognition that the provision of high speed broadband is an essential vehicle for the economic and social development within the county and that current provision is variable and particularly poor in rural areas. BELP would like to take steps to improve the provision and is considering ways in which that may be achieved.

We invite individuals and business to complete a survey at www.belp.co.uk to assist with our understanding of requirements and expectation. The following points may explain the position:

- Current provision of Broadband within the county is mainly delivered by BT's 'ADSL' telephone infrastructure, though internet services may be delivered by a number of commercial providers using essentially the same networks. Some 80% of premises within the county achieve speeds of between 2 – 8 mb/s with 20% being very poorly served at less than 2mb/s some at zero.
- That 20% equates to approx 35,000 premises, within which are substantial numbers of small businesses who we believe would willing pay realistic rates for a reliable service
- This situation already constrains the ability to attract new business, with some leaving the county now, along with severe constraints on business & residents for:
 - business video, e-commerce, cloud computing, office collaboration
 - working from home
 - downloading education material for coursework,
 - use video conference & Skype type facilities,
 - use of iPlayer or downloading High Definition home entertainment
 - and will damage expectations for delivery of online public services and Tele-medicine.
- Even today, education material, particularly course work is required to be completed on-line which means some children are having to travel miles to access the internet for their work.
- Substantial numbers of individuals would like to work from home, reducing travel and carbon impact, but without useful broadband speeds are unable to reliably do so.
- We would appreciate your assistance in compiling appropriate data for your area to assist with prioritising where our intervention may be most helpful. Please complete the survey at www.belp.co.uk or using the hard copy form and returning to the address below.