



**Norfolk County Council**

Community and Environmental Services  
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To Chamber members

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Date: November 2018

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Dear Business Owner

### **Business Support for improved access to fibre connectivity in Norfolk**

Norfolk County Council is applying for a multi-million pound bid to central government to create a gigabit broadband fibre network access across Norfolk to enhance business connectivity.

Letters of support from the Norfolk business community are regarded as “gold dust”, and any successful bid must show support from the business community. This letter seeks to show the benefits of a successful bid and offers a template letter, should you be prepared to support the bid.

The County Council’s bid, if successful, will enable 410 sites across rural Norfolk to receive a fibre to the premise solution which will have the capability of delivering gigabit fibre. The main focus of our bid is to drive benefits for the local business (and residential) community, including:

- 410 rural sites will enable local ‘meet me’ (connect to me) points. Local businesses wishing to improve connectivity (of any level up to Gigabit) will be able to use the existing free vouchers (currently worth £3,000) toward the cost of delivering fibre to their premise from the nearest meet me point.
- An anticipated 13,000 businesses will sit within 500 metres of the proposed meet me points.
- A significant number of rural business parks and industrial estates identified will have the opportunity to gain access to this fibre connectivity.
- The Gigabit network’s backhaul will have the potential to allow the County to better engage with mobile operators to improve mobile coverage across the county.

- The Gigabit network will create a technical platform to support and deliver a 5G ecosystem across the County
- The Gigabit network will support roll out of the separate but associated LoRaWAN network across the county – offering new products/market opportunities for the business community.
- Over 230 rural schools within the county will have access to a fibre connection – with associated improvements for teaching, school administration and enhancing the out of school role of the School. .
- Rural residential and care homes will be provided with the capability to gain access to this fibre network benefitting and promoting future innovative telecare provision.
- Government itself believes individual staff turnover will improve by 0.38% per annum, allowing an average equivalent of £1,390 GVA improvement per firm, per annum, and £18.29m across rural Norfolk

If you are prepared to support this bid for funding, please submit your letter of support by the end of December to Norfolk County Council. A template letter with return details is attached overleaf.

With thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Dukes', written in a cursive style.

David Dukes

Economic and Development Manager

Communities and Environmental Services  
Norfolk County Council