

Local Full Fibre Network
Programme part of the wider UK
Digital Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-digital-strategy>

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Digital Economy

Includes people working in digital occupations which are not within digital sectors and many more making use of digital technology to do their work, for example, through e-commerce

UK Digital Strategy supports the Government's Industrial Strategy green paper, via 7 themes:

- **Building world-class digital infrastructure for the UK**
- Giving everyone access to the digital skills they need
- Making the UK the best place to start and grow a digital business
- Helping every British business become a digital business
- Making the UK the safest place in the world to live and work online
- Maintaining the UK government as a world leader in serving its citizens online
- Unlocking the power of data in the UK economy and improving public confidence in its use

Theme One - Building world-class digital infrastructure for the UK

- Continued rollout of 4G
- Superfast broadband by 2020
- Introducing a Broadband Universal Service Obligation
- **£1 billion investment including “Full Fibre” and 5G**
- Support consumers in getting the best deal in digital connectivity
- Roll out free Wi-Fi on trains, and in more public places.

£1 billion investment including “Full Fibre” and 5G

- The Budget announces the first steps, specifically:
 - Up to £16m for leading UK research institutions to cooperate on a cutting edge 5G facility to trial and demonstrate 5G technology. The first step to a new National 5G Innovation Network
 - **£200m investment to leverage commercial investment in Full-Fibre, the ‘gold standard’ of fast and reliable broadband**
- **Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund** will be launched in spring 2017. Government investment of £400 million will be at least matched by private sector investors, and will accelerate the deployment of Full Fibre networks by providing developers with greater access to commercial finance.

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Expressions of Interest

- An EOI was submitted as required by 23rd August
- There will be further bid guidance, workshops etc. later via DCMS
- This Challenge Fund will support bids from public sector organisations that can leverage local investment and activity to stimulate more fibre connections in their local areas
- EOI / Bids from multiple organisations working as a consortia are preferred. This is the basis of Norfolk EOI

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Expressions of Interest (cont'd)

- Solutions will need to be State Aid compliant – BDUK advise has been sought and our EOI reflects this
- Capital bids only with funding period 2018/19 – 2020/21
- Although match funding not required, bids including contributions or investment will be preferred

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Expressions of Interest (cont'd)

- There are four themes, and ideally EOI / bids should include inter-related streams from as many of the themes as possible
 - Public Sector Anchor Tenancy
 - **Gigabit Voucher Scheme** – likely to be a list of approved ISPs / service packages that the end customer can use their voucher with. So, de-minimis aid to the final beneficiary, the customer. Scheme likely to be managed by BDUK
 - **Full Fibre Upgrades for Public Sector Sites** – to establish public sector Digital Hubs to support digital service transformation and offer incubator units for Digital Business start-ups. Public sector procurement of assets / services means state Aid rules unlikely to apply
 - Reuse of Public Sector Infrastructure Assets

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Expressions of Interest (cont'd)

- Evaluation criteria to be published but are likely to focus on projects that offer:
 - The most 'additionality'
 - Combine different themes
 - Include public sector contribution, can be resource not necessarily money
 - **Align to a local Digital Strategy and delivery plan**
 - Demonstrate positive approaches towards planning, street-works permits, wayleaves, etc.
 - Collaboration between public sector organisations