



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Ref: 003DN : broadband

Release date: 1 March 2012

### **Broad approach to Broadband improvements**

Improved internet access across the district is a priority for SKDC in the coming year.

Lincolnshire has one of the poorest Broadband connections in the UK, some rural areas of the district have no Broadband access at all - so-called white spots - and only two of the county's 125 exchanges are set for upgrade to fibre optics in the near future.

SKDC is adopting a two pronged approach. One is to contribute up to £536,000 to a county-wide programme aimed at bringing Broadband to the 10% of areas which will still not be connected. The programme has already won £14m funds from the Government's BDUK £530m programme.

Depending on its contribution to the BDUK project, the council may be in a position to support community led projects such as Wifi masts around the district in partnership with local communities or parish and town councils, confirms Cllr Frances Cartwright, Cabinet portfolio holder for Economic Development and Planning. "That way we could see double benefit for our district.

"We want to increase the number of rural areas that have broadband access and eradicate white spots. The Government's BDUK programme wants to see broadband speeds everywhere to at least 2.5Mb, which, although still significantly short of superfast delivery, would be a major advance for much of the district.

"Without improved internet access, the prospect of supporting entrepreneurs and attracting new business to rural areas in particular is extremely challenging.

"Broadband access even comes into the top five things people consider when moving house."



NOTE: If you would like a high res version of this image please contact Chris England [c.England@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:c.England@southkesteven.gov.uk)

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