

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Bexley bids for better broadband

Bexley has submitted a bid to the Department of Digital, Culture Media & Sport to support the creation of a new £7m private fibre network and a further £1m for a voucher scheme designed to help enable local and future businesses to be able to access ultra-fast, Gigabit broadband services.

The bid would provide ultrafast broadband connectivity between a network of public buildings across the borough and the capacity to provide Gigabit broadband services for many local businesses and residents.

It is part of the Council's plan to work with public and private partners to bring about a step-change in ultra-fast fixed and mobile digital services, that will help make Bexley a preferred Borough for investment.

The bid has been made jointly with the Bexley Clinical Commissioning Group (Bexley CCG) and, if it is successful, the private network will link around 300 buildings, including libraries, Council Offices, CCTV sites and GP surgeries. Businesses and commercial broadband providers would also be able to benefit from the increased speed and capacity the network would offer.

"The bid is part of our ambitious plans to provide Bexley with the very latest Gigabit digital infrastructure," said Cllr Don Massey, Deputy Leader of the Council. "Not only that, it will save money and improve the delivery of public services for years to come."

"This bid is part of our ambitious plans to improve the borough's broadband connectivity," explained Cllr Linda Bailey, Cabinet member for Regeneration and Growth. "We've planned the project carefully to support our plans for growth and support local businesses."

The Council has bid for £5m in government grant, which would be matched by around £3m of public funding. If the bid is successful, work would begin immediately to procure the new network during 2018/19. When completed, both the Council and the CCG will benefit from significantly reduced connectivity costs, as well as having massively improved bandwidth with the availability of Gigabit speeds.

Bexley is committed to an ambitious growth programmes which includes plans to create 31,000 homes and 17,000 jobs by 2050, principally along a largely undeveloped eight kilometre stretch of Thames waterfront.

The borough's Growth Strategy includes exciting plans to attract new sectors and 'digitally dependent' businesses. It also seeks to make Bexley an active and thriving base for the creative and 'maker' movement, together with modern manufacturing and engineering businesses that increasingly rely on digital technologies.

Bexley's new digital infrastructure plan has four elements –

- 1: Digital 'in fill' to help most existing homes in Bexley to have access to super and ultra-fast broadband.
- 2: Ensuring that all new developments are built with access to a choice of ultra-fast broadband infrastructure providers.
- 3: A new Bexley Growth 'fibre' network to serve public buildings, partners and businesses.
- 4: Borough-wide coverage of high speed, high capacity wireless and mobile services.

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Attachments

- Bexley bids for better broadband [Bexley bids for better broadband](#)



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