



Connecting Devon and Somerset

Briefing, February 21st, 2022

Programme update

- Airband and Openreach contracts in Devon
- CDS Mobile Boost Scheme
- Vouchers

Summary

- CDS has delivered superfast connections to over **315,000** homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset.
- **Airband** and **Openreach** teams are working in dozens of communities across Devon under contract to CDS to connect thousands of additional homes and businesses.
- Hundreds of homes and businesses in Devon and Somerset have benefited from the CDS Mobile Boost Scheme funded by the Heart of the South West LEP.
- Over **2,000** additional homes and businesses in Devon now have gigabit-capable connections or are in the process of being connected through the Gigabit Voucher scheme.

Vouchers

In parallel with our broadband contracts and other initiatives, CDS works closely with Building Digital UK (BDUK) to expand take-up of the Government's Rural Gigabit Voucher programme. CDS offers support to communities who wish to contract with telecoms providers to design and shape broadband solutions for their areas. CDS can provide additional financial support where appropriate through its Community Challenge Programme to help bridge any local funding gaps.

To date, vouchers worth £4.5 million have been issued in Devon and **2,458 additional homes and businesses have gigabit-capable broadband or are in the process of being connected.**

Any help I can offer with facilitating speakers for parish councils please let me know

Margaret

National Apprenticeship Week 7th-13th February

DCC has been celebrating National Apprenticeship Week this week, I hope you will have seen on DCC's social media channels the work some of our apprentices have done for the organisation.

Over 80 apprentices have completed their apprenticeship ranging from Level 2 standards such as the Customer Service Practitioner all the way up to Level 7 standards such as the Senior Leader Master Degree apprenticeship.

Since the apprenticeship programme started in 2006, Devon County Council has delivered over 850 opportunities for new and existing staff and utilised more than 70 different apprenticeship standards.

We have a retention rate of 76% of our apprentices securing permanent employment at the Council, while the remaining 24% either go onto university or gain employed outside of the Council.