

NBG Report for KCC Meeting 21 Feb 2018

There have been few visible changes in connectivity over the last month. The status of the cabinets in the various villages also remains unchanged but on the same plan as last month. Detail from last month's Broadband Delivery Group meeting is below.

For Killearn, the connectivity of premises and the status of the 2 possible further cabinets is unchanged from last month. The locations remain unknown. Premises within G63 9LA, G63 9NP, G63 9PD, G63 9PT, G63 9QG, G63 9QN, G63 9QT, G63 9QY, G63 9RQ & G63 9SQ are shown as Accepting Orders, subject to line length as to whether the service will actually be available.

In Balfour no premises appear to have had upgraded connections in the past month.

Balmaha premises are again unchanged this month.

In Blane/Strathblane no premises appear to have had upgraded connections in the past month but some postcodes are now showing that the both the first cabinets (G63 9BY and G63 9JW) need to be expanded.

In Buchlyvie, there are no changes this month although almost all premises are now connected. Some are acknowledged as having slower speeds than desirable.

Drymen premises have not changed status this month. Croftamie premises also appear unchanged. Properties on the G63 0NH postcode, covering parts of Gartness and Balfour Station and connected to the Drymen exchange appear to be Accepting Orders although they are on very long lines and are in a future plan to use FTTP technology to deliver faster speeds.

Some premises on the A811 towards Gartocharn from the A809 junction near Drymen are now showing as Accepting Orders, although some of these are on long lines and so will probably not actually get the service.

For Fintry the cabinet situation is unchanged this month i.e. work on the first cabinet (that should have gone live in Sept 2017) has still not started and the date for a 2nd cabinet to go live is Sept 2018. However ALL premises for postcodes covering the whole village are now shown as In Scope 'to be built either as part of the fibre programme or through a partnership with the local authority'. We continue to install the Fixed Wireless Access system to a number of properties along the Stockiemuir Road but the discussions of a Fintry replica now appear redundant.

Remember the status of your individual connectivity can be checked on either of the WhereandWhen pages of the BT Openreach or Digital Scotland websites. The additional 'refinements' of status from the BT Openreach Where and When website are shown at the end of the detail section overleaf.

ALSO do not forget the Digital Scotland "Better Broadband Scheme" provides a subsidy to establish a better connection using either satellite or wireless for those currently getting download speeds of less than 2Mbps. See the KCC website for specific links.

Last month's Broadband Delivery Group conveyed that potential contractors for the R100 programme are being assessed, with contracts hopefully issued in Q1 2019 (for completion by 2021). Across Scotland £600M has been budgeted for this, with £83 for the Central contract. The reality of all premises actually achieving 30Mbps though is already subject to doubt. Stirling Council is proposing to offer support to some of these doubtful areas and a project for Brig o' Turk, for example, is being costed. The Ben Gullipen project is being re-assessed with the possibility of using public buildings as relay points though there are several issues around this proposal. The 1GB 'Stirling Ring' infrastructure is hoping to be extended to a few extra areas including a short length between council buildings in Balfour. Visibility of mobile mast upgrades is still minimal. White Space trials are continuing, however their use appears to be somewhat limited. A National Business Voucher Scheme is expected to be reinstated shortly meanwhile Stirling Council will assist with the creation of a 'Wi-Fi hotspot' in any of the villages if a specific location can be identified.

The latest status of cabinets in each of the villages is shown overleaf:

- **Cabinet status summary:**

- Balfron cabinets: 2 live (P1 at G63 0LH & P3 at G63 0NA) plus a further 4 live between March & Sept 2018 but locations unknown. About 85% of the village (by postcode) is now showing Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance). Majority of other premises are shown as In Scope;
- Balmaha cabinets: some postcodes are showing as In Scope i.e. more advanced than Exploring Solutions;
- Blane/Strathblane cabinets: 3 live (P1 cabinet at Netherblane; P2 cabinet at G63 9BY, and P3 cabinet showing as Field Survey, location unknown, but now supposedly live). Over 85% of the village (by postcode) is now shown as Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance). Parts of remaining postcodes (i.e. G63 9AH, G63 9EH, G63 9ET, G63 9EU, G63 9EX, G63 9EY, G63 9EZ & G63 9HA) are showing as in Build. Cabinet P2 at G63 9BY is now showing that an expansion is required. Everywhere else is In Scope apart from a few shown as Exploring Solutions that look like data errors;
- Buchlyvie cabinets: P2 cabinet at FK8 3LP is live and services most of the village. Some more premises are connected now while other premises are still Exploring Solutions. A 2nd cabinet is showing, location unknown, in Design and apparently planned for March 2018. Premises at FK8 3LS & G63 0QU remain Exploring Solutions. About 88% of the village (by postcode) is now shown as Accepting Orders for fibre (subject to distance);
- Croftamie cabinets: P2 live (at G63 0EP between village and A811 junction to Balloch). Another cabinet has appeared on the corner of Buchanan Cres and the A809, but it's unclear whether it is live;
- Drymen cabinets: 3 live (P1 at G63 0BY, P2 at G63 0EP i.e. Croftamie, and P3 at G63 0BD). Additional premises are shown as Accepting Orders (within G63 0NH) using a cabinet number 3. P4 has appeared at Buchanan Castle Gdns in the Castle Estate at G63 0HT with premises being Connected. This is shown as live in Feb 2018, with 2 further cabinets P5 (allegedly already live from Nov 2017) and E10 supposedly going live in July 2018, both locations unknown. Planning permission has been sought for a cabinet at G63 0BH that is probably one of these 2 cabinets;
- Fintry cabinets: 2 cabinets are shown, E1 (opposite the Garage in Main St) allegedly scheduled for Sept 2017 (although no actual work has actually started) and E2 is scheduled to go live in Sept 2018. A fixed-wireless solution similar to that delivered to Auchengillan is being investigated for those premises away from the centre of the village. Meanwhile about 60% of postcodes are In Scope, the others being Exploring Solutions;
- Killearn cabinets: 3 cabinets are live (E1 at Blane Smithy), E3 (at jn of Station Rd and Gartness Rd) and P1 (beside Exchange). 2 further cabinets appear to be proposed (although neither location is known) and there is still permission for a cabinet at the junction of The Square and Crosshead Rd. Both are now at Field Survey, P2 allegedly live by July 2018 and E6 allegedly live by Sept 2018. Some further premises (on G63 0NJ) have been connected to the E1 cabinet but most are on lines that are too long to benefit currently. Additional premises are shown as Accepting Orders (within G63 9LA, G63 9NP, G63 9PD, G63 9PT, G63 9QG, G63 9QN, G63 9QT, G63 9QY, G63 9RQ & G63 9SQ);
- Milton of Buchanan – see Balmaha above;

Note that the reliability of dates shown is uncertain, as are the specific locations, which refer to the often large areas within a single rural postcode. You can check your own situation using the BT Openreach WhereandWhen website.

Note: the stages in “the Fibre Journey” are:

Exploring Solutions, In scope, Design, Field Survey, Build, Connect, Activate, Accepting Orders.

The timescale for “the journey” is likely to be about 12-18 months.

Status ‘refinements’:

Exploring Solutions: We're working with government and industry to explore ways to bring Superfast fibre to as many people as possible but don't have a plan for your area yet. You might consider co-funding fibre access in your community. Knowing there's a healthy demand in your area can also really help.

In Scope: You're in a plan to get Superfast fibre but we haven't started work yet. It'll be built either as part of our fibre programme or through a partnership with your local authority.

In scope – FTTP: Your area is currently in our plans to be upgraded with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), however we follow a different design and build process for FTTP so you won't see updates at each stage. Once the engineering work is completed there is a commissioning period of up to eight weeks before an order can be placed. When you are able to place an order you will see the Accepting Orders message.

Accepting Orders but line Too Long: Your cabinet is enabled for Superfast fibre however you're not able to order fibre just yet. This might be because the length of the line is too long to get Superfast speeds. We're actively looking at other options.

Doug Ashworth

Chair, Killearn Broadband Group