Rutland County Council

Rural Services Network Conference
8th / 9th September 2015

Helen Briggs
Chief Executive Rutland County Council and Lead Officer for the Rural Unitaries Group
hbriggs@rutland.gov.uk
Twitter - @HbriggsR

Issues to cover

- Rutland – what we have achieved and the frustrations along the way
- Rural areas – who's losing out!
- The last few percent
- Some conclusions

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digitalrutland

Superfast broadband across Rutland

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Overview of Project 2012-2014

Rutland Population	Rutland Premises 2012	Phase 1 Intervention Area
Circa 38,000	17,228	9,908

Digital Rutland Public Funding Allocation			
Funder	**DR Project**	**SEP**	**Total**
RCC	£1,500,000	£180,000	£1,680,000
BDUK	£820,000	£180,000	£1,000,000

Timeline

- May 2012 - Digital Rutland contract signing
- March 2013 - Digital Rutland contract commences
- August 2014 - 52 cabinets/circa 9,100 premises delivered

Current Broadband Position

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- 95% or 9,416 premises in our original Digital Rutland Intervention Area have been enabled with fibre broadband

BUT

- 86% or 8,551 can obtain speeds in excess of 24 Mbps

- Rutland has the highest take up in the Country 43% and rising!

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Autumn 2014 Second OMR and Public Consultation – linked to the SEP Funding

- February 2015 – Intervention Area refined which includes some handed back commercial areas (sub - 15mbps threshold)

- 1,457 more prems and 8.5% increase
  – now having to revisit areas in market towns
  we thought were done!

Commercial Hand Back Examples - Oakham and Braunston

Oakham

- Handback both within the town centre and outlying areas
- Some premises aggregated at reasonable level but not all
- Some premises even in the town centre will remain hard to reach - EO Lines
- Some new developments not fibre enable and handed over to us

Braunston in Rutland

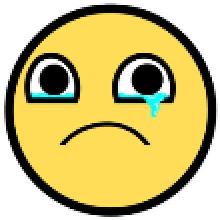
- Village of circa 200 residents
- Long line issue back to Oakham exchange (circa 4 miles away)
- Currently receiving < 2.5 Mbps download speeds
- We would have prioritised for Phase 1 roll out but we couldn’t intervene as it was identified for commercial intervention

= One very unhappy community!

http://braunstoninrutland.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/braunston-broadband.html

Phase 2 Roll out

- Phase 2 Deployment contracted June 2015
- Total Premises to be covered = 899 out of 1,916 IA
- Will bring fibre coverage in the County to 94.6%
- But will not start till Summer 2016 !!



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Phase 3 The Final 5% ?

- Identifying the final 5% takes a long time and delivering will take even longer !!
- Circa 1,000 premises remaining in Rutland
- In pockets of <10 premises scattered across the County
- FTTC, FTTP solutions therefore limited and costly – VFM issue
- Option Satellite vs. Viable alternative technologies ?
- Procurement route a challenge – we have to wait till we have identified the prems and there is no valid state aid

Rural areas – who is losing out?

- Commercial hand back – a double whammy for rural areas competing with urban areas
- Those at the end of the line
- The quirky ones!! – e.g. Exchange only lines
- Those where deployment has taken place but it isn't future proofed
- In the larger shires a high percentage masks the rural and deeply rural areas really losing out
- Those who are waiting and waiting and waiting….. It will come but its all taking too long at the gap is widening

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We don't know what we don't know!

- Knowledge about the network (by the network owners) is not what it should

- Data on speeds is often unreliable

- What's right one day changes as take up increases and speeds drop, new cabinets with insufficient capacity

- No-one would have planned it like this!!!!!!!

The last 5 -10%?

- We have to be confident we know what makes that up
- In some areas it will be higher than 10%
- Fibre may not be the solution
- Cost per prem further from the cabinet - when does it become prohibitive?
- Alternatives to Fibre?
- It's going to change as we move from 2mbps to 24mbps and beyond - iterative

The last 1%

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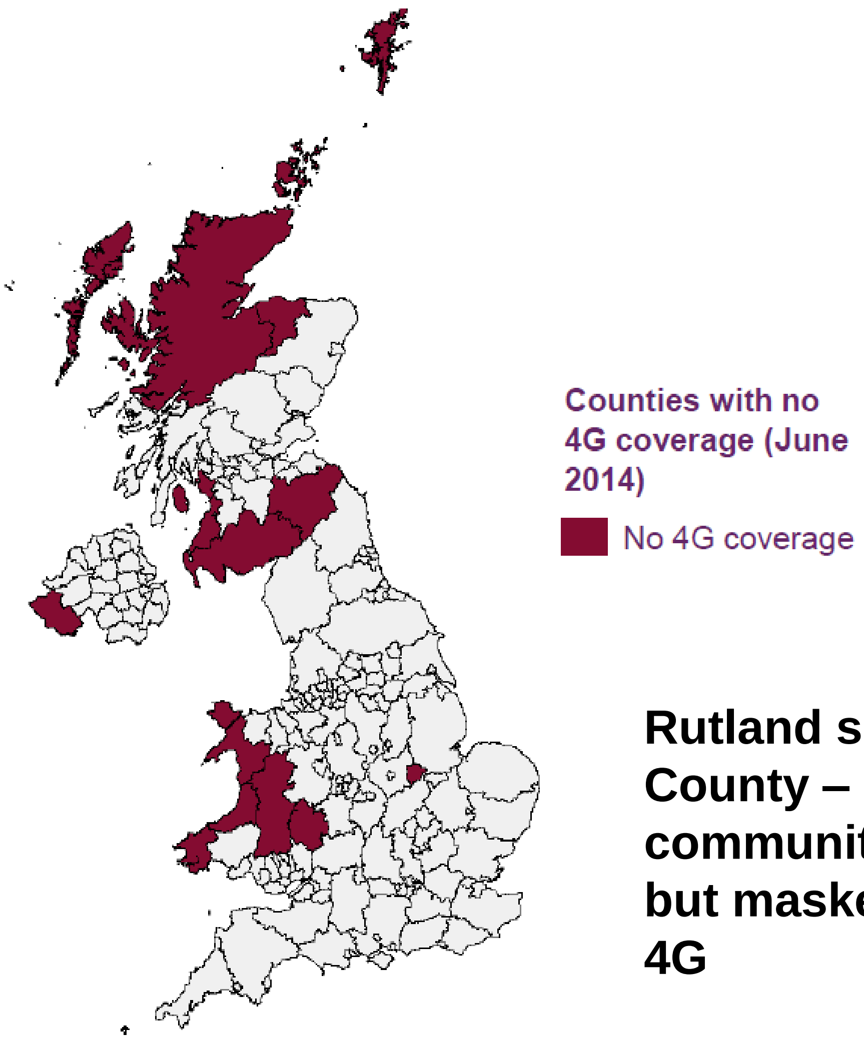
- It's going to be expensive, very expensive
- Acceptable speeds at an acceptable cost – the Holy Grail at present
- The ideal solutions are not available…….yet
- Oh and by the way… as if that wasn't bad enough!

Figure 55 - Counties where no premises are covered by 4G networks (June 2014)



Source: Ofcom analysis of MNO data

Rutland shows because we are a County – how many of your communities are in this position but masked by urban areas with 4G

In conclusion……

- Rural areas <u>have</u> lost out, <u>are</u> going to be at the end of deployment, with slower speeds and solutions that are not future proofed

- Where do we go after fibre?

- Currently the fibre alternatives are a procurement challenge and the market isn't ready