

Community Broadband Scotland

For communities with limited or no broadband



Context

Superfast or next generation broadband (NGB) will transform economic and social opportunities available to communities in remote areas as well as helping to reduce our carbon footprint. It will enable the delivery of public services, open up online learning opportunities, support remote and home working possibilities as well as enabling people to download music or catch up on missed TV programmes.

Currently many rural communities are unable to get the broadband coverage or speeds they need to fully benefit from being online. Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) is here to help communities receiving speeds of less than 2 Mbps to take forward their own projects to improve local broadband provision.

Why a community solution?

Commercial providers will not provide next generation broadband services to everyone. In Scotland broadband deployment is particularly challenging.

Scotland's Digital Future sets out how Scottish Government will deliver a step change in broadband speeds, paving the way for delivery of world-class, future proofed infrastructure across all of Scotland by 2020. To this end £240 million of public funds has been committed to the Step Change¹ programme to provide infrastructure with the capacity to deliver next generation broadband to at least 85% of homes and businesses and an aspiration to provide a minimum of 2 Mbps for everyone.

CBS has been set up to help communities in the 15% 'harder to reach' areas that will not benefit directly from the Step Change¹ programme. It will support communities to close this gap by developing their own broadband projects. There are many examples of communities in Scotland who are doing just this. They have demonstrated that the technology is available to develop high-speed local networks.

Community Broadband Scotland – an overview

CBS is a £5 million initiative which works to encourage and support the development of successful and sustainable community broadband projects, capable of delivering next generation speeds, through the use of established technologies and business models.

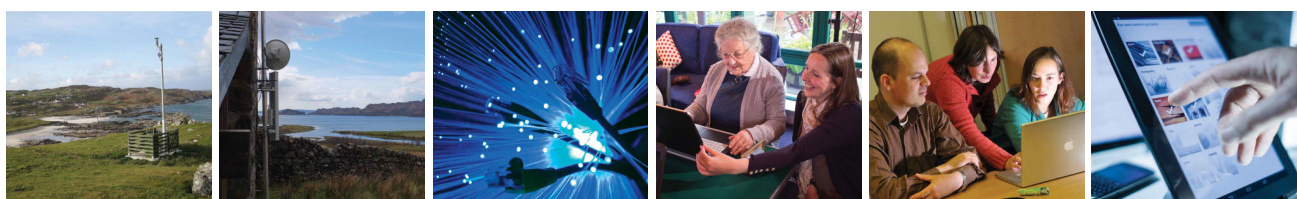
CBS works with Scottish communities that receive speeds of less than 2 Mbps and are least likely to benefit from a next generation solution under the Step Change programme.

CBS provides:

- an informative website providing resources, templates and case studies
www.communitybroadbandscotland.org
- a telephone helpline - 0800 917 3688
- a network of on-the-ground CBS advisers
- a Start Up Fund

Contact details

www.communitybroadbandscotland.org info@communitybroadbandscotland.org ☎ 0800 917 3688



¹ Step Change is part of the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Action Plan to provide infrastructure in those areas that the market will currently not go, see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Economy/digital> for more information