



Community Broadband Scotland

Campbell Cameron – Argyll Lomond and the Isles Adviser.

February 2015 update - Top facts and figures.

Background

- Due to its size and location, Argyll and Bute is covered by both projects within the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme. The programme is expected – when combined with existing rollout plans – to cover at least 84.9% of premises in Argyll and Bute by the end of 2017/18. Commercial deployment alone would have reached only 28% of premises in the region.
- The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme is being delivered through two regional projects – one in the Highlands & Islands; the other in the rest of Scotland. Both projects are being delivered in partnership with BT.
- Community Broadband Scotland assists area where there are poor or no broadband services and the area is unlikely to benefit from the DSSB programme.
- The Highlands and Islands project will involve laying 800 km of new fibre on land and 400 km of sub-sea cables to provide 19 crossings to remote islands. The total project value is around £146 million, with the public sector investing around £120 million.
- CBS has received 8 formal applications in Argyll and Bute from community-led broadband projects for grants from its Start Up fund. Funding totalling £15,000 has been allocated to 6 projects (Mull & Iona, Colintraive, Tighnabruaich, Appin, Bute, and South Kintyre) to undertake scoping work and 2 projects (Gigaplus Argyll/Mull & Iona) to undertake project planning work.

Update

- Recently HIE/ BT announced that the Rothesay, Campbeltown, and Lochgilphead areas were being advanced to connect in the second half (June – December) of 2015.
- CBS is working with the Argyll Isles project (Gigaplus Argyll), which comprises seven communities (Colonsay, Mull & Iona, Lismore, Islay, Jura, Luing, Craignish) who are undertaking a procurement process to identify a preferred supplier for an aggregated broadband solution for these islands. The preferred supplier will be identified in March. A formal application for capital funding support for a project to serve over 1500 premises is expected upon completion of this process and submission of a viable business plan.
- In addition, CBS is actively engaged with 3 pre-application 'pipeline' projects (Lochgair, Bridge of Orchy, and Loch Awe), all of which it expects to progress to the project planning stage.

Campbell Cameron.

campbell.cameron@communitybroadbandscotland.org