

David Ralph
Chief Executive
D2N2
8 Experian Way
Nottingham
NG2 1EP

Dear David

I am writing on behalf of the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity Committee to bring to your attention a current match funding issue relating to broadband investment.

The project to deliver superfast broadband into Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is now on stream and is intended to have far reaching effects for businesses, particularly those situated in remote areas where growth has been constrained. With 94.8% coverage planned for delivery in the next few years, the area will be well ahead of the game.

Despite good progress being made, uneven access to superfast broadband throughout the City and the County will remain after the existing project (Phase 1) ends in 2016. In an attempt to close this gap, the Government recently announced an indicative allocation of £2.63m as part of Phase 2 of the programme. Government have stipulated that an equal amount to their grant needs to be sourced locally. However, as you are aware from your attendance at recent Economic Prosperity Committee meetings, at a time of significant pressure on Local Government finances, raising the necessary local match funding through existing budgets is proving to be a challenge.

The Government grant allocation is time-bound requiring funds to be spent by 2017. I therefore urge you to continue to push Government to allow such investment in broadband within the D2N2 Growth Deal to ensure that a modern communications infrastructure can be brought to parts of the area not currently reached by the private sector.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Graham Chapman
Chair, The City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Economic Prosperity
Committee