Broadband Connection Vouchers Scheme
WHAT IS THE BROADBAND CONNECTION VOUCHER SCHEME?
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• UK Government scheme to enable companies to overcome the cost barriers associated with upgrading to improved internet connections
• Grants available from £100 - £3000
• Administered by Kent County Council

• £40,000,000 grant fund
• Easy application process
• Over 800 suppliers nationwide
• Over 25,000 Vouchers already funded (01/07/2015)
Benefits for SMEs

With faster, better broadband, businesses can:

• Grow and access new markets through better communication with customers
• Increase security through fast secure back-up of data
• Increase productivity while attracting and retaining the best staff
• Improve customer service by sending or uploading large files faster
• Increase bottom line by improving customer satisfaction
• Work in the cloud. Flexible storage with disaster recovery
• Future proof business for the digital challenges of tomorrow
Who Is Eligible?

SME (Small – Medium Sized Enterprises)

Or

A Registered Charity

Or

A Sole Trader
Who Is Eligible?

SMEs with less than:

- 250 staff
- Turnover up to €50m / Balance Sheet less than €43m
- Not be operating in an excluded sector:
  - fishery and aquaculture primary production, processing and marketing of agriculture products, coal, steel and shipbuilding, public sector & education
- Have not exceeded the de minimus State Aid allowance
- Not a subsidiary of an ineligible parent company
Who Is Eligible?

KCC has negotiated heavily to include as many postcodes across the county as possible. From the original offer the scheme now includes:

- Major towns
- Smaller towns with significant number of commercial premises
- Rural areas with a high density of business population
- Out of town & rural business parks
Application Process

Visit kent.gov.uk/connectionvouchers to check postcode eligibility

Choose a Pre Registered Package from the list of approved suppliers
No Forms, No Fuss

Bespoke Application:
Obtain quotes from the wider list of approved suppliers and submit a bespoke application to KCC
Application Process – Bespoke Packages

Check Postcode Online
Kent.gov.uk/connectionvouchers

Obtain Quote

Application Sent To KCC

KCC Approve Application & Issue Voucher Offer Letter

Order Placed With Supplier

Supplier Installs New Connection

Claim Sent To KCC

KCC Confirm The Installation

Supplier Receives Payment Against Voucher

Kent Businesses Enjoy The Benefits of SuperFast broadband!
Joint Applications

Businesses can pool their vouchers together and work with suppliers to get even better connections for suitable sites.
Vouchers can only fund defined elements of suppliers solutions (those associated with installation) — referred to as **Eligible Costs**

A comprehensive definition of Eligible Costs is provided in the Supplier Registration document (Appendix 2) — this should be regarded as the definitive list.

A summary of major Eligible Costs is provided below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network Type</th>
<th>Eligible Costs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Costs (All Connection Types)</td>
<td>• Planning &amp; survey fees</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Costs for wayleaves or other “easement” rights</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provision of building entry points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Supporting structures (e.g. poles)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Power supply installation to support network electronics</td>
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<td>• Cabling costs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In-building wiring for multi-SME premises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Costs (Fixed NGA &amp; Business</td>
<td>• Provision of footway and carriage boxes, poles &amp; duct infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connectivity)</td>
<td>• Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) &amp; associated costs (e.g. backup power)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Costs (Wireless NGA &amp; Business</td>
<td>• Provision of building location points (inc. associated mounting costs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connectivity)</td>
<td>• Radio Frequency connectors &amp; antennas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In-building wireless repeaters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Fixed wireless CPE costs</td>
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</tbody>
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Key Scheme Design Principles

- SMEs are the focus of the scheme
- One overarching national scheme – delivered locally
- Value of vouchers within range (£100 to £3,000)
- Inclusion of Social Enterprises, Charities SOHO. within SME scope
- **Must deliver a step change in connectivity** – usually to over 30 Mbits/s but also taking into account other business requirements such as reliability
- Support for **one-off** installation charges only – no support for on-going
- revenue charges
- No payment of **VAT**.
- No obligation for the SME to **match-fund** (or part match-fund) the installation charge
- SME are free to spend their vouchers as they wish – they may redeem on an individual basis or may cooperate with other voucher recipients
- Scheme process supports **joint proposals** - for example on business parks
- where the landlord provides connectivity services to tenants
Thousands of businesses are already reaping the rewards:

“We saved half an hour a day per staff member, meaning a saving of 7% overall”
Weboo Digital agency, London

“Fast internet is a proven productivity booster”
DMC Business Machines Croydon

“We achieved efficiency savings of 25% by sending files faster”
Pozzini, Architecture firm, Manchester