

Dear Parishes,

Connecting Devon and Somerset has recently launched its Voucher Scheme to provide subsidies to install alternative broadband technology to premises across Devon and Somerset. Vouchers worth up to £500 are now available for residents and businesses across the entire programme area who experience broadband speeds below 2Mbps. The subsidy will cover the cost of connecting to an improved broadband service to boost broadband speeds to a minimum of 10Mbps.

Eligible residents and businesses that are in receipt of a voucher code can choose to redeem the voucher with one of the suppliers listed on the Connecting Devon and Somerset website. Seven broadband suppliers are currently registered on the scheme offering a variety of technology solutions including fibre to the home, wireless and satellite. We are in discussions with other suppliers, so it's possible that even more providers will eventually join the scheme offering residents and businesses even more choice.

Those who benefit from the voucher scheme will still be entitled to a superfast broadband connection under phase 2 of the CDS programme if their connection is below 30Mbps. The procurement process for phase 2 is expected to conclude in the Autumn of 2016.

For more information please see the link below.

<http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

We would appreciate it if you could spread the word about the programme, especially to the rural communities who suffer from slow broadband speeds.

Kind regards,

The CDS Team

Devon & Somerset County Council

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W. <http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/>