

Mr P Bungard
Chief Executive
Gloucestershire County Council
Shire Hall
Westgate Street
Gloucester GL1 2TG

30th May 2018

Ref PB/sjr

Dear Pete

Broadband connectivity in new builds

Thank you for your letter of 23 May.

You may be aware that our Construction and Infrastructure [C&I] group prepared a paper last year entitled *BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO DEVELOPMENT*. This highlighting issues and identified potential ways to accelerate development. It has been an invaluable catalyst in ongoing negotiations between the C&I group and key stakeholders in the County Council and the six Districts.

As recently as 10 May, there was an all day workshop of over 30 of these stakeholders seeking to agree common ground and solutions to these development barriers. One of the areas identified in the C&I paper [3.44] was the problem with the provision of services by non statutory organisations [eg broadband]. They concluded that *“this requires government intervention with utility companies to emphasise the priority on accelerating development both in Gloucestershire and nationally”*.

I am delighted to see from your letter that the Council resolves to work with the Planning Authorities to ensure that all new housing developments and the homes built on them have full fibre connectivity, as part of the Local Government planning process. I am assured that that our C&I group will do all they can to help and support this resolution.

www.gfirstlep.com info@gfirstlep.com 01242 715480

Registered Office: GFirst LEP CIC, Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester, GL2 9HW

Company Number 09353067



As far as your final bullet is concerned, again I can assure you that the C&I group will actively encourage the development market and members to sign up to committing broadband in all new build homes and industrial sites/estates in Gloucestershire. Indeed it is good commercial practice to do so. It does seem however that it may well need political intervention to support this aim.

Yours sincerely



Dr Diane Savory OBE DL
Chair

www.gfirstlep.com info@gfirstlep.com 01242 715480

Registered Office: GFirst LEP CIC, Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester, GL2 9HW

Company Number 09353067



THE WORKPLACE
WELLBEING CHARTER
NATIONAL AWARD FOR ENGLAND