

## **B4RN can access government grant funding to upgrade small and medium sized businesses to a gigabit full-fibre internet connection.**

B4RN is pleased to announce that we are a registered supplier on the Project Gigabit voucher scheme which is provided by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and Building Digital UK (BDUK). This scheme helps local business upgrade their Internet to 1000Mbps (1Gbps).

Fibre-based connections offer faster, more reliable Internet connectivity, and a reliable connection is now essential for businesses today - for those agricultural businesses such as farms wanting to record their live stock movements and complete Single Farm Payments, or businesses wanting to connect to the Cloud and increase productivity and future-proof ready for the digital challenges of tomorrow.

The scheme helps to cover some of the costs of getting B4RN to your door. The funding is to assist with the costs of installing the service and cannot be used towards the monthly service charges.

### **Eligibility**

Your business must be an SME or a Sole Trader/Partnership and meets the following requirements set out by DCMS:

- Employs fewer than 250 people.
- Annual turnover is less than £50M.
- Balance sheet of less than £43M.
- Must have received less than £200,000 of State Aid in the last 3 years. This is the de minimus limit and it applies to agriculture, so most farms will be eligible.
- The business must not be a subsidiary and/or under the control of a large non-SME entity.
- The business operates from the premises for which the voucher is being applied (employees working from home are not eligible).

All businesses wishing to take part in the scheme must sign up for a minimum 12 months' service.

### **What Happens Next?**

- We will request the voucher through the BDUK Portal prior to your connection being installed.
- You will get an email from BDUK asking for you to confirm that you are happy to go ahead, this must be validated within 28 days or the voucher will be automatically cancelled.
- The work within your property boundary is either completed by B4RN, a contractor, or your local group.
- We work to get you live and connected to B4RN.
- Once your service is live BDUK will email you again for you to confirm that you have live service.
- Please ensure you confirm to BDUK that you have live service by clicking their email link, otherwise B4RN will not receive the funding to cover the costs of connecting you. B4RN will temporarily disconnect you if you do not click the link within 14 days of receiving the email from BDUK.
- Once confirmed, BDUK pay the voucher value to B4RN.

**All businesses which successfully apply will have their connection fee (worth £60) waived.**