

## Appendix B - Getting Building Fund Project Background Information

Name of Project	Extension of the full-fibre broadband rollout in Essex to reach rural and hard to reach areas									
Responsible Upper Tier Local Authority	Essex County Council									
Getting Building Fund value	£2.297m									
Project Description	<p>Superfast Essex is a broadband improvement programme which is run by Essex County Council. The programme aims to make superfast and ultrafast broadband available to as many homes and businesses across Essex as possible.</p> <p>The GBF funding was awarded to enable the extension of the Superfast Essex programme to cover a wider geographical area, incorporating additional rural areas where the demand for fast broadband services is nearly 15% higher than the average for Essex.</p>									
Project Benefits	<p>The project will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least 1,500 homes and businesses which currently have poor internet connectivity will be upgraded to provide access to ultrafast broadband.</li><li>• It is expected that 300 of these premises will be occupied by businesses. As a result of the GBF investment, these remote businesses will be in a position to maintain their operations in the post COVID-19 economy, which is expected to be more focused on online trading and customer engagement. In addition, it is expected that additional jobs will be created to drive this digital customer engagement.</li><li>• In addition, the investment will support remote working and home learning for approximately 1,200 homes.</li></ul>									
Financial Information	<p>The funding package as set out in the application for additional GBF funding was:</p> <table><tr><td>Funding Source</td><td>Funding Package £</td></tr><tr><td>Getting Building Fund</td><td>2,297,256</td></tr><tr><td>Supplier Contribution</td><td>600,000</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>2,897,256</b></td></tr></table>		Funding Source	Funding Package £	Getting Building Fund	2,297,256	Supplier Contribution	600,000	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,897,256</b>
Funding Source	Funding Package £									
Getting Building Fund	2,297,256									
Supplier Contribution	600,000									
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,897,256</b>									
Current project constraints and risks	<p>The original funding forecast anticipated that only the additional GBF funding of £118,182 awarded to the project in January 2023 would remain unspent by the end of March 2023, however, the latest reporting shows slippage in GBF spend with a greater proportion of the funding now expected to be spent in Q1 2023/24.</p> <p>Essex County Council (as the Accountable Body for SELEP) continues to hold the £118,182 additional GBF awarded to support project delivery in January 2023. It will not be possible for this funding to be released until Essex County Council (as responsible Upper Tier Local Authority) have completed all required governance associated with the award of the additional funding.</p>									

<b>Link to Project webpage</b>	<a href="https://www.southeastlepp.com/project/extension-of-the-full-fibre-broadband-rollout-in-essex-to-reach-rural-and-hard-to-reach-premises/">https://www.southeastlepp.com/project/extension-of-the-full-fibre-broadband-rollout-in-essex-to-reach-rural-and-hard-to-reach-premises/</a>
------------------------------------	---