



Jonathan Djanogly MP
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

27 October 2017

Dear Sir

To whom it may concern

Re: Connecting Cambridgeshire bid for DEFRA RPA Rural Broadband Infrastructure Fund

I am writing in support of Connecting Cambridgeshire's bid for funding from the DEFRA RPA Rural Broadband Infrastructure Fund.

Superfast broadband is essential to the economic growth of Cambridgeshire because it means businesses across this largely rural county can thrive and compete in an increasingly digital world.

I am aware that there are still gaps in superfast broadband coverage for businesses, particularly in rural areas which are more challenging to reach.

Connecting Cambridgeshire estimates that in my own constituency of Huntingdon there are around 1,000 rural businesses, 6% of which do not have access to superfast broadband.

A number of rural businesses have approached me to ask for help in securing better connectivity and have expressed concern at being 'left behind' in an increasingly digital world.

Increasing numbers of people work flexibly from home and fast, reliable internet access means they can keep connected wherever they are, reducing congestion and improving the quality of life.

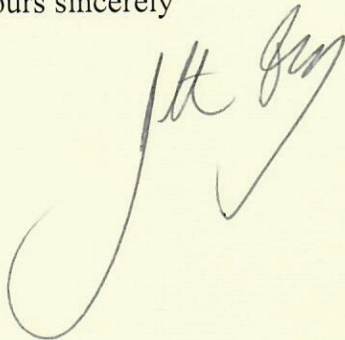
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The Connecting Cambridgeshire superfast broadband rollout to homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has made significant progress; the programme has now reached 95% superfast broadband coverage and aspires to achieve >99% by 2020.

The concerns regarding business broadband connectivity have been underlined by the response to Connecting Cambridgeshire's recent Business Broadband Survey, which has evidenced the need for further intervention in rural areas.

I am delighted that DEFRA is taking action to improve rural connectivity, and believe that Connecting Cambridgeshire's has evidenced a strong case for funding to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH Jones', written in a cursive style.