

Dear Kilmeston, Cheriton and Bramdean FTTP applicants,

You may remember from my Update No 3 that the budget came and went and we were waiting for "election purdah" to end after 6 May.

Well, at last, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's website has confirmed that its part in the process is to go ahead. See <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> The government voucher will, once again, be worth £1,500 per residence and £3,500 per business.

However, we have received word from Chris Priestley, Openreach's Rural Engagement Manager for Hampshire, that *"At the moment Hampshire are not topping up the vouchers but we expect an announcement in July to advise us if they will be. "*

Naturally, Priestley is reluctant to proceed until and unless we get the top-up funding from Hampshire County Council because, without it, the scheme is probably not viable.

So we must accept a further delay, but we will continue to apply pressure via our HCC Councillor and our MP for re-instatement of the top-up.

Dr Graham Cresswell

for Cllr Jason Bridgen, Tom Haye, Guy Hornsey & David Annette.

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