

Council seeks to improve District's broadband coverage

The views of broadband users across Test Valley are being sought for a survey to measure the level of demand for a better broadband service.

Test Valley Borough Council and the eHampshire Partnership have produced a short survey for Test Valley residents and businesses. It asks for details of current internet speeds and seeks views on what residents would pay for faster access to the World Wide Web.

Cllr Peter Giddings, the Economic Portfolio Holder for Test Valley Borough Council said "It is important to make internet access better for everyone but we need to make sure that there is demand for the service. With more people working from home in rural areas, faster broadband access is essential to keeping the local economy moving".

The results of the survey will be mapped, and overlaid onto an existing map of not-spots - a term used to describe areas with very poor broadband access. This will identify the areas which require higher speed broadband access. The evidence that has been gathered will then be used to lobby internet service and infrastructure providers, to enable a better broadband service for Test Valley.

Glenn Peacey, eHampshire Manager, encourages all Test Valley residents and businesses to take part: "This survey has already been undertaken in Winchester, where we have worked in conjunction with BT Openreach to provide better broadband infrastructure for residents. The Test Valley survey results are a vital tool for us to demonstrate to providers that there is a demand for better broadband in rural areas."

You can access the survey at <http://www.ehampshire.org/testvalley/c-349> which also has a tool to measure your current broadband speed. In addition, you can email more general comments to David Gleave, Economic Development Manager at dgleave@testvalley.gov.uk or on 01264 368309.