

PRESS RELEASE

May 2015 update



Community Broadband is coming to, Iona, Colonsay, Lismore, Luing, parts of Islay, Mull and Jura and Craignish

Steady and positive progress continues with the GigaPlus Argyll broadband project.

The goal of GigaPlus Argyll continues to be to establish a superfast broadband service to defined areas of Argyll and the Islands, where BT Openreach will not be able to do so. The necessary public finance and essential support services to achieve this are being provided through Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The procurement process to find the best business partner to help design, build and maintain the network is now complete. A small negotiating team has been established to finalise the detailed technical, timing and commercial arrangements which will exist to provide these future broadband services. This work will take place over the next three months and then follow with the final award of a legal contract.

A focussed team comprising Richard Thorne, the project manager for GigaPlus Argyll along with Campbell Cameron from Community Broadband Scotland has started to visit the islands and communities included in the scheme to explain how GigaPlus Argyll was formed and its future plans. These events will be advertised locally, and on the GigaPlus Argyll web site and Facebook page. The first event took place on Lismore during April, and was well attended by interested residents.

Until recently GigaPlus Argyll has been run by a volunteer steering group made up from the separate community broadband teams that came together in early 2014. Positive steps have now been taken to create a robust and more formal incorporated organisation. The company has been registered as a co-operative with a small board made up of the founding directors. A full board complement is now in the process of being created. Where possible, these Directors will be from the communities covered by GigaPlus Argyll along with key people who can bring essential technical and management skills to the organisation.

The new www.gigaplusargyll.co.uk web site is up and running.

Visitors to the site can see whether their postcode is covered by GigaPlus Argyll or by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise/Digital Scotland/BT Openreach contract.

People who are interested in keeping up to date with news of GigaPlus Argyll can register on the web site. So far there have been 139 notifications of interest, which already represents around 10% of the potential subscriber base within the project area.

For more information please either visit the website www.gigaplusargyll.co.uk or contact Richard Thorne; Tel. 01680 812906, or via email at rthorne@gigaplusargyll.co.uk