Welcome to the latest edition of ‘In the Loop’

For the Scottish Government’s Connectivity Minister, I am delighted to announce real progress in delivering the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme with the award of contracts in the South and Central lot areas.

The DSSB programme will ensure that all premises across Scotland have access to superfast broadband, or FTTP, technology by 2021.

In the South lot, we will directly reach over 60% of the 30,000 eligible premises that either do not already have a superfast service or will not be provided with one by known commercial investments. This will mean that in total, approximately 90% premises across the whole of South Scotland will have access to superfast broadband.

In the Central lot, we know that, of the 55,000 premises that are eligible for public investment, 90% will reach at least 30 Mbps or 10 Mbps or more. The remaining premises in the Central lot will require to be connected by alternative means, which will be subject to future decisions. Meanwhile, however, Sorn Castle in East Ayrshire is a great example in showing the benefits of digital connectivity.

In January, we announced 60% fibre broadband take-up across Scotland can have access to superfast speeds by the end of 2021.

The R100 programme will ensure that all premises across Scotland have access to superfast speeds.

The DSSB programme reaches 60% take-up

In a recent announcement, BT broadband take-up reached 60%. This is a significant milestone for the programme to build on, alongside the 60% take-up that the DSSB programme has reached.

FTTP brings Castle into 21st century

Members of the team also visited Sorn Castle in East Ayrshire. The programme deployed to the castle last year – not only is Fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP) helping to make the castle more environmentally friendly, it has also enabled 16 farms on the castle’s estate to have faster broadband, alongside 32 properties.

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