Today I met up with representatives from Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) for an update on their progress. In the Totnes constituency, there are already 8,273 properties connected to superfast broadband with an additional 2,034 coming online shortly. I was pleased to hear that areas connected to exchanges in Bigbury, Blackawton, Dittisham, Dartmouth, Kingswear, Paignton, Salcombe, South Brent, Staverton, Stoke Fleming and Stoke Gabriel will be connecting to superfast soon and that the infrastructure for those areas has now been put in place.

By the end of 'Phase One' of the rollout in 2016, CDS estimates that 89% of properties will be connected to superfast. The remaining 11% will be delivered through 'Phase Two' and discussions are ongoing ahead of the process to decide which provider will be awarded the contract to deliver this. CDS are currently negotiating an agreement for State Aid Notification with the European Commission, which is necessary before the tender process can begin and it is hoped that this will be concluded by February. The contract will then go out to tender for 12-16 weeks before a provider will be decided and work on connecting the final 11% will begin.

Residents can check whether their property can receive superfast broadband or see when their area will go online via the following link.