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## **UK'S FASTEST BROADBAND SET FOR THE VALE**

- **1Gb-per-second download speeds...21 times faster than UK average**
  - **Fibre optic cabling to every home and business**
  - **Poor broadband speed biggest concern for local businesses**

When Taylor Wimpey asked local companies and residents what the key priorities are for business and jobs in North Somerset, the single biggest issue raised was poor broadband speeds<sup>1</sup>.

So, the housebuilder has now committed to delivering the UK's fastest broadband to all 4,500 homes and all businesses at The Vale.

The so-called superfast 1Gb broadband provides download speeds that are 21 times faster than the UK national average. Instead of an average 46.2 Mb-per-second download speed, The Vale's service would run at up to 1000 Mb-per-second (1Gb).

This is made possible by taking superfast fibre optic cables all the way to each property. One of the reasons speeds can sometimes be slow even with fibre optic cabling, is that the cables often stop at the end of each street, and the final connection to individual properties is through traditional copper wiring.

Taylor Wimpey is proposing to build three new villages in North Somerset, adjacent to Bristol. During its public consultation, the housebuilder asked residents what the key priorities were for business and employment: at the top of that list was high-speed broadband.

The housebuilder also had the same feedback when it discussed its proposals with the various North Somerset Chambers of Commerce.

"For businesses to thrive in North Somerset, it is clear one of the major factors is a reliable broadband service. When we asked local businesses and residents what the biggest single issue for the local economy was, fast broadband clearly topped that list," said Taylor Wimpey's project director Gareth Hawke.

"Since those discussions, we have been able to confirm we would deliver fibre optic cables to every home and business at The Vale, using ultrafast 1Gb broadband – that's more than 20 times faster than the current UK average.

"There is a thriving local economy in North Somerset, but it is vital to get the basics right if businesses of all sizes are to prosper.

"Taylor Wimpey's plans for superfast broadband at The Vale would future-proof homes and businesses.



“We are seeing a rapid change in the way people work with more and more working from home. Superfast broadband at The Vale would give residents more choice about where they work. The Vale is by far the most sustainable location to build new homes – and superfast broadband only further demonstrates The Vale’s sustainable credentials.”

More details of *The Vale* are available at [www.thevale-northsomerset.co.uk](http://www.thevale-northsomerset.co.uk) where interested parties can provide feedback and sign-up for regular email updates.

People can also find out more and sign up for updates via The Vale Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/taylorwimpeythevale/> or follow the Twitter feed @twthevale.

### ENDS

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### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> Feedback from Taylor Wimpey’s public consultation. Visitors to three public exhibitions were asked a series of questions. One question asked what the priorities should be for business and employment should The Vale go ahead. The question was accompanied by a series of suggestions. The highest scoring of those suggestions was ‘high speed broadband’. High-speed broadband was also one of the key priorities stated by the various North Somerset Chambers of Commerce at a workshop held with Taylor Wimpey, also as part of its consultation for The Vale.

### Note to media:

Taylor Wimpey UK, part of Taylor Wimpey plc, is one of the largest residential developers in the UK. It operates from 24 regional offices across England, Scotland and Wales, and builds over 14,500 homes every year.

Taylor Wimpey is a responsible homebuilder that is committed to health and safety, environmental sustainability, providing excellent customer service and engaging with local communities.

In 2017 Taylor Wimpey contributed over £413 million to local communities in which it builds across the UK via planning obligations, providing, for example, local infrastructure, affordable homes, public transport and education facilities; Taylor Wimpey continues to innovate with its range of high quality and energy efficient house designs on developments across the UK; Taylor Wimpey has a strong and sustainable customer base, with over 90% owner-occupiers.

First time buyers accounted for 41% of Taylor Wimpey’s sales in 2017, with a range of offers available to help first time buyers purchase a home of their own; Taylor Wimpey seeks to be an inclusive company which values people as individuals – whether they are employees, customers or other stakeholders. It aims to be successful through a creative and innovative workforce that reflects the diversity of the local communities in which it works.



**Press Release**

For more information please visit [www.taylorwimpey.co.uk](http://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk)