

**Sharing best practice, projects and partner SEARCH:  
Community - owned Broadband in rural communities**

**Proposal**

Suffolk County Council, a municipal authority in the UK <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>, is undertaking feasibility work to assess the desire and the capacity of rural communities to take the lead on the installation of rural broadband infrastructure. This approach is based on a model from Sweden, and a similar approach is being adopted elsewhere in the UK.

The model involves community-owning of the broadband infrastructure and leasing it to an ISP or providers of broadband services.

Suffolk CC is currently working with the region's development agency (EEDA), the Community Broadband Network and the Rural Community Council to identify the community most likely to wish to participate and to then identify funding to take this forward.

We would like to identify and make contact with other examples of where a community-led broadband infrastructure has been successfully installed and is working, and particularly:-

- how communities were engaged
- information on their capacity to effectively operate the community asset once it is established.

**Project Objective**

To provide community-owned broadband infrastructure in areas where mainstream providers will not provide such infrastructure due to perceived market failure.

**Which kind of contacts/partners are sought?**

- Organisations and projects that have experience of this type of model - examples from elsewhere and possible partners for the future.
- In particular examples from France, the Netherlands, and other areas with a similar socio-economic profile to the East of England (eg. <http://www.eeda.org.uk/the-region.asp>)

**Who to contact for further information?**

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