

Statement on L-DTPS coverage area extension – Basingstoke

On 17 November 2015, Ofcom considered a request from Comux UK limited and That's Media limited ('That's Hampshire'), the successful applicant for the local digital television service for Basingstoke,¹ to extend the 'Basingstoke' coverage area by deploying a wider antenna pattern until 1 January 2018.²

Ofcom noted that the proposed use of a different transmission frequency and a wider antenna pattern would extend the coverage into geographical areas which are adjacent to, and have an affinity with, the existing coverage area and therefore the number of households able to receive the service would increase significantly from 63,000 to 168,000. Ofcom considered that this would have a positive impact on the viability of both the local service and the local multiplex and noted that the extension would not result in any significant increase in overlap between the Basingstoke local TV service and other local TV services.

Ofcom considered that the requested coverage extension would not have affected its assessment at the time of the licence award that the proposed service fell within the statutory description of an L-DTPS, and that it met the conditions for such services under the statutory scheme. Ofcom was also satisfied that the requested extension would not impact on the ability of That's Hampshire's to deliver and maintain the Programming Commitments proposed in its application at the time of the licence award.

Taking these factors into account, Ofcom approved the proposed coverage extension request up until 1 January 2018.

Next steps

Ofcom will vary the local multiplex licence to include the revised technical parameters for the Basingstoke coverage area and publish a variation note to this effect. Ofcom anticipates that the That's Hampshire service will launch within two years from the original award date, i.e. by July 2016.

¹ Ofcom decided to award the L-DTPS licence for Basingstoke to That's Hampshire on 8 July 2014. The service has a two year window to launch. Ofcom's award decision can be found here:

<http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/tv/local-tv/applicants/Basingstoke.pdf>

² Ofcom's position on the availability of spectrum for coverage extensions and the use of additional frequencies for local TV is published online: <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/tv-broadcast-licences/local/coverage/position-coverage-extensions>