

SFT Outcomes Demonstrating progress with impact



2020 CASE STUDY

Outcome 05



Programme and project procurement and delivery is effective, with highly skilled teams deployed where they are needed

4G Infill programme

Remote village receives mobile coverage for first time

Being able to use your mobile phone, no matter where you are, is regarded as a vital element of modern living. But across many parts of rural Scotland there has never been a mobile signal impacting negatively on local businesses, the community and tourist trade.

Scottish Government and the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) have been working together to develop the **Scottish 4G Infill (S4GI) programme** to deliver 4G infrastructure and services to around 40-50 "notspots" in Scotland.

The SFT-managed programme is backed by £15 million of Scottish Government funding and £10 million from the European Regional Development Fund and is being delivered by WHP Telecoms.

One notspot in the programme was **the remote village of New Luce**, Wigtownshire where in early 2020, residents were the first in Scotland to benefit from a programme to provide 4G to areas with no mobile coverage from any operator.

Vodafone is now providing 4G, 3G and 2G services from the new mast. EE is expected to do so later this year and will provide service from a majority of sites in the programme.

Connectivity Minister Paul Wheelhouse said: "While telecommunications is a responsibility of UK ministers, improving mobile coverage is vital to achieving the Scottish Government's ambition to make sure everyone in Scotland has access to high-speed, reliable coverage.

"People in New Luce are the first to benefit but we hope that, like Wigtownshire, many more remote and rural parts of Scotland and Scotland's islands will soon enjoy improved, cost-effective connectivity as a result of the Scottish Government's work with industry and other partners, and our investment in the £25 million S4GI Programme."

WHP Telecoms Strategic Development director Martyn Cheyne said: "This is a great achievement for all involved and another important moment in WHP Telecoms' growth. Providing connectivity to mobile 'notspots' is transformational but challenging, it takes a truly collaborative approach to succeed. Thank you to the fantastic S4GI teams at WHP, Scottish Government and Scottish Futures Trust, to Vodafone, Cornerstone, Openreach, Scottish Power, the landowner and tenant farmer, and to the New Luce Community Trust who have all supported WHP in making this possible."

