Superconnected Cities

Bradford law firm ‘supercharges’ client service with broadband funding

Mir Solicitors is enhancing its service to clients after becoming one of the first professional services firms in Bradford to take advantage of Superconnected Leeds Bradford connection vouchers. The firm successfully applied for funding from Superfast Leeds Bradford, which is administering the government’s Superconnected Cities scheme to help smaller businesses access high speed internet services across the two cities.

Headed by senior partner, Idris Mir, the firm employs ten people and acts for clients ranging from individuals to large blue chip companies and overseas governments, with specialisations in in commercial litigation, commercial property and insolvency.
Using a ‘fibre to the cabinet’ connection, Mir Solicitors’ high speed broadband connection has increased the firm’s download speeds by over 400 per cent, from 12 MBPS to 52 MBPS.

Idris Mir said: “The use of technology is growing among savvier professional firms. As a small practice we’ve always punched above our weight and having the new high-speed internet has certainly boosted our productivity already as well as helping us to make cost savings. The faster connection has also supercharged our service to clients so that they are feeling the benefits as well.”

Mr Mir added: “We are taking the process one step at a time, having made the shift to high speed internet, and we intend to look at options such as flexible and remote working further down the line. We’re in no doubt that our high speed internet access moves us up to the next level as a business. “

Mark Durham of Superconnected Leeds Bradford said: “Connection vouchers worth up to £3,000 like the one awarded to Mir Solicitors are proving to be a game changer for professional firms and small businesses across Leeds and Bradford. Connection can be via ‘fibre to cabinet’, which Mir opted for, but wireless and other methods are also available. Over 800 companies have taken advantage of the scheme so far, increasing productivity and creating new jobs across the region, and we’re urging more to sign up.”

The Superconnected Cities programme has been extended for a further 12 months to March 2016, and an extra £40m of government funding has been allocated to help businesses get connected to high speed internet.

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**Photo shows:** Left – right: Mark Durham, Superconnected Leeds Bradford; Idris Mir, Mir Solicitors

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Notes for editors

1. The Superconnected Leeds Bradford programme was officially launched on Wednesday 19th February 2014 and is being delivered by Leeds City Council’s economic development service on behalf of the two West Yorkshire cities which jointly received the largest funding allocation for the programme outside London.

2. ‘Superfast’ broadband typically refers to download speeds of above 30 megabits per second. Connection Vouchers can be used to support a variety of technical solutions, including both wired and wireless connections. As well as meeting the ongoing running costs of the broadband connection, the SME will need to pay for the VAT on the connection charge. The scheme runs in Leeds and Bradford until 31st March 2016.

3. Companies simply have to complete an online application form and obtain a supplier quote detailing the costs of connection. Further details and the application form are available at www.SuperconnectedLeedsBradford.co.uk

4. The ‘Superconnected Cities’ programme is part of a national programme to improve broadband connectivity and is running alongside the Superfast West Yorkshire infrastructure programme, which aims to bring high speed connectivity to residents and businesses in more rural areas. For more information about superfast broadband in West Yorkshire and Government-funded projects to improve access visit: www.superfastwestyorkshire.co.uk