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ntl:Telewest Business brings next generation speeds to west Wales wireless network

- **TFL Group's wireless tower network's bandwidth bolstered with high capacity backhaul services**
- **Brings faster and more resilient broadband internet services to many of the most remote parts of west Wales**
- **Offices, homes, commercial premises, churches and even the Cistercian monks of Caldey Island benefit from boost in next generation capacity**

A wireless network that enables many of the most remote corners of west Wales to access broadband services has been boosted by being connected to ntl:Telewest Business's fast and resilient network. The tower-based network, which is owned and operated by Pembrokeshire-based TFL Group, has greatly increased its available wireless capacity with a 100 Megabits-per-second (Mbps) backhaul service from ntl:Telewest Business, part of the Virgin Media group.

TFL provides hundreds of public sector organisations and businesses across often remote areas of West Wales with WIFI and WIMAX broadband services. Pent-up demand for its services, which bring high speed connectivity into a traditionally under-served area of the UK, were, however, putting a strain on TFL's network capacity. To solve this problem TFL turned to ntl:Telewest Business, which has enabled them to provide point-to-point wireless network access at up to 300 Mbps, providing faster broadband connections for customers while reducing network performance issues during periods of peak demand.

Among customers to benefit from the boost in network capacity across west Wales are the Cistercian monks on Caldey Island, who had no internet access until the TFL network service was extended from the mainland, and the Botanic Garden of Wales near Carmarthen. TFL has also installed transmitters to provide broadband access to isolated communities that would otherwise be restricted to dial-up access.

“The problem with delivering fast and resilient internet access across west Wales is the geography. Putting fibre optic cables in the ground would be a massive project and cost-prohibitive, but TFL has tackled the challenge with a wireless network that reaches the entire area,” said Jonathan England, Director of Operations for TFL Group. “By using a backhaul service that connects our infrastructure to the ntl:Telewest Business fibre optic network near Swansea, we are able to bring the capacity advantages of that network to our customers. It means we have injected our network with greater speed and made internet use more resilient for our customers.”

The ntl:Telewest Business network connects business and public sector organisations across south Wales and is the only next generation network to span the UK. By partnering with TFL, it is enabling west Wales to enjoy high-speed internet access comparable to network availability in other parts of the country.

“Our next generation network delivers extremely fast communications services to 85% of UK businesses but by bringing its capabilities to other networks we can extend that reach further,” said Paul Lawrence, head of business markets for ntl:Telewest Business in south Wales. “By delivering backhauled capacity to TFL we have helped to give a major boost to people who need to use the internet every day across west Wales.”

- Ends -

About ntl:Telewest Business

ntl:Telewest Business has the most technically advanced of the UK's two national networks. Its vast nation-wide Next Generation Network provides businesses, public sector organisations and service providers across the UK with a complete portfolio of advanced data, internet and voice services. The £13billion network is flexible, scaleable and is already built out to more than 38,000 street cabinets across the UK.

As part of a commitment to deliver superior customer service, ntl:Telewest Business sales and support teams are located in close proximity to its customers in over 40 centres across the UK.

ntl:Telewest Business is trusted to provide critical communications to high profile customers including: Birmingham City Council, Yorkshire Water and EasyJet.

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