

Legal entities – what are they and how to set one up

Every community who proceeds with a Community Fibre Partnership will have to contract with Openreach, and must do so via a legal entity.

A legal entity is an association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trust or individual that has legal standing in the eyes of the law. A legal entity has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, and to be held responsible for its actions.

In many cases there are existing legal entities within a community that can be used to contract for a fibre partnership with us. For example a residents association, or somebody who has a small company. Where this isn't the case, communities will need to set up their own legal entity. There is a charge (it's not huge) to set up a legal entity and we suggest you add the cost of setting this up to the overall cost of your new fibre infrastructure.

Setting up a business

Have a look at the Government pages on setting up a business:
www.gov.uk/set-up-business

Creating a Community Interest Company

Download the Government's guide on setting up a Community Interest Company:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-interest-companies-how-to-form-a-cic

Government Community Interest Company pages

Register your Community Interest Company using the online incorporation process:
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-of-the-regulator-of-community-interest-companies

openreach.co.uk/communityfibre