



LIGHT UP YOUR LIFESTYLE

Titanic Quarter's design for 21st Century living and working is, literally, light-waves ahead of other UK property developments and will compete directly with the best connected locations around the world.

With apartments and offices that are linked not by wires but optical fibre the design provides scope for a vast range of innovative services from many different service providers. And this freedom of choice is under-scored by the flexibility to make use of several services from different suppliers all at the same time.

What will this service multiplicity mean for the future working and leisure lifestyles of Titanic Quarter's 21st-century community? In the last ten years we have all become familiar with high-speed access to the Internet. It's now difficult to recall a time when simple things like buying an air ticket or downloading music or checking train times was just so much hassle. In the past 10 years high-speed access has encouraged a plethora of services like the BBC's 'listen again' or 'blogs' or, for some, TV programmes on-demand. Now imagine the same pace of change, times a hundred, within the next decade.

Today's 'broadband' networks are now regarded by technologists as primitive and are holding back the development of new services. This need for extra capacity is not simply a matter of doing the same things faster.

In trying to shoe-horn broadband onto old narrow-band copper lines, most services have been unable to work equally as well in both directions. Fibre networks solve this problem. This 'symmetry' will change work-styles by allowing far greater use of 'cloud computing'. Shifting the processing load away from inefficient personal computers to more-secure and 'greener' data centres will attract the most demanding of global enterprises.

Much more than raw speed, the really brilliant advantage of local fibre networks is that the single strand of fibre coming into your apartment or office will be able to handle many more activities at the same time. This could mean different TV programmes for different household members, or it may mean that you can have entirely different Internet services (for business and domestic use) without the conflicts between work and homework.

But the scope for new on-line services will run even deeper. Whilst it's impossible to predict exactly how life-styles will change, we can expect much less life-organising hassle and far greater support for leisure, home-working, education and active communities.

Some may choose to create collaborative local TV networks. High-quality audio links could transform music creation or provide studio-quality phone calls. Home security, environmental monitors, automatic meter reading, and keeping an eye on home whilst away on business or holiday are all more likely to become easily available when the fibre network is pre-provided with enough future-proof capacity for your grandchildren's imagination.

You may be keen on playing fast-moving multi-user games in cyberspace (where high reaction speed is a clear advantage) or perhaps you'll just enjoy projecting the harbour-watch monitor onto live wallpaper to show the cruise ships coming and going. Being linked by fibre to the outside world means that these services can also be beamed around your home or offices by the new generation of plastic optical fibre – so much easier to install than old wired networks and vastly more secure than local WiFi. Maybe you'll benefit from Belfast's 'Connected Health' programme that's being designed to make it easier to get healthcare services without going into hospital – or indeed to get home from a spell in hospital much earlier.

Across the entire Titanic Quarter estate, the same fibre network will also serve the information needs of visitors and tourists - making the entire place safer and easier to navigate – and making Titanic Quarter a great place to live, work and play.

