**VXFIBER launches to Help Local Authorities Take Charge of their Digital Destiny**

**“Swedish business model” to give The UK THE ultrafast connectivity it demands**

**London, 21st February 2018 –** VXFIBER, a Swedish provider of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) solutions, has launched in the UK with a mission to help Local Authorities take charge of their Digital Destiny. With over 50,000 connected users across Europe, South Africa and the Far East, VXFIBER can leverage its heritage and experience to provide fibre technological expertise in a country traditionally underserved by FTTH rollouts. It will provide a practical blueprint for Local Authorities to follow, leading the charge on Gigabit connectivity to stimulate economic investment and monetise local authority assets.

Mikael Sandberg, Executive Chairman at VXFIBER explained: “Gigabit speed ‘fibre to the home’ (ftth) is the infrastructure on which the digital economy of the future will be built. Yet we’re acutely aware how underserved the UK is – with figures from Ofcom showing only 3% of homes and businesses connected to full fibre. The slow pace at which high-speed fibre connectivity has been rolled out across the UK is alarming in comparison with mainland Europe - the country doesn’t even appear in the latest rankings from the FTTH European Market Panorama. By not focusing on 1GB full fibre, the UK is not properly addressing the issue of future-proofing the national digital economy. It’s kicking the problem down the road to deal with at an unknown future date.”

Swedish Business Model – Open Access

VXFIBER co-invests in, builds and operates Open Access fibre networks. Through a public-private collaboration – the so called “Swedish business model” – it partners with local authorities to invest and install their own high-speed fibre assets. This is known as the “passive layer” of the network. VXFIBER then provides the all-important active equipment and network management systems - the “active layer” - which the Local Authority can use to monetise its fibre investment. In this way, Local Authorities are no longer dependent upon established telecom operators or ISPs to provide essential connectivity. Instead, they can monetise their existing assets to kick start gigabit networks in their boroughs with the social and economic benefits that result.

Finally, VXFIBER partners with service providers who can offer various products and services directly to the subscriber via a self-provisioning web-based portal – the “retail layer”. This Open Access Model meets all the commercial and operational requirements of the stakeholders, but by giving greater transparency into the cost and suitability of differing providers’ service offerings, gives the ultimate choice to the end user/subscriber.

VXFIBER’s multi-layered “open access” approach to building and managing network infrastructure has multiple advantages over relying on a single combined network operator / ISP. It lowers the barriers to entry for new and local internet service providers, allowing for real competition in the market as well as encourages a greater conversion of subscribers from the homes passed by the fibre network’.

Digital destiny for local authorities

He added: “Just like in Sweden, UK local authorities are ideally positioned to lead the charge in the rollout of Gigabit connectivity across the country. Government funding is available to them, but many don’t know where or how to begin the process. By unbundling the traditional model of telecoms infrastructure, the VXFIBER model enables limitless connectivity and offers endless possibilities for local authorities, service providers and end users alike to take charge of their digital destiny.”

Working with VXFIBER to install Gigabit-speed fibre creates multiple opportunities for a Local Authority and is an integral part of many regional economic development and growth initiatives. Installing fibre assets are also a means for Local Authorities to obtain a bigger and better return on investment ROI from residential or commercial developments or regeneration schemes as the revenue from fibre ownership can provide a valuable revenue stream. This all comes at a time when - according to, the annual finance survey published by the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) - local councils are being pushed “perilously close to the financial edge.”

**About VXFiber**

VXFIBER was founded in 2014 as Ventura Next by Swedish telecoms industry experts with global experience of building and managing open access network infrastructures – including FTTH – dating back to 1998. Until 2014, the shareholders owned Swedish open access network operator Zitius, managing 118 open access networks across Sweden, consisting of 46 council/municipal and 72 private networks. These networks now serve some 500,000 fibre-connected households and business.

VXFIBER now has over 55,000 connected subscribers in Europe, UK, South Africa and the far East. It connects new users at a rate of 100-200 per day.