

LINK Financial Inclusion Monthly Report



February 2019

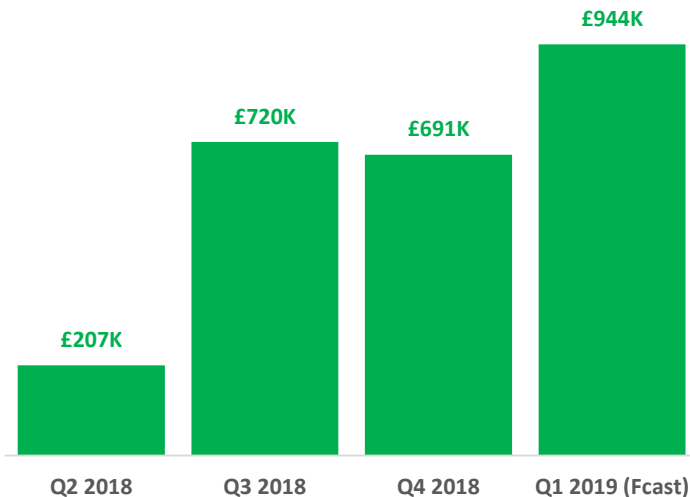
Overview of the Programme

The LINK Financial Inclusion Programme has been improving access to cash for the most vulnerable and deprived communities since 2006. It provides subsidies to ATM operators who run free-to-use machines in the most deprived communities in the UK. In 2006 1,694 deprived areas were identified with no free access to cash where the subsidy could apply. In 2015 957 further sites were brought into the Programme following independent research by Toynbee Hall. A further 112 Scottish Output Areas were brought into the Programme in September 2018 making a total of 2,763 in scope today. Of these 2,763 sites, 1,862 have a free ATM and 901 are without a free ATM. The remaining 8,743 deprived sites across the UK already have a free ATM without the need for a subsidy.

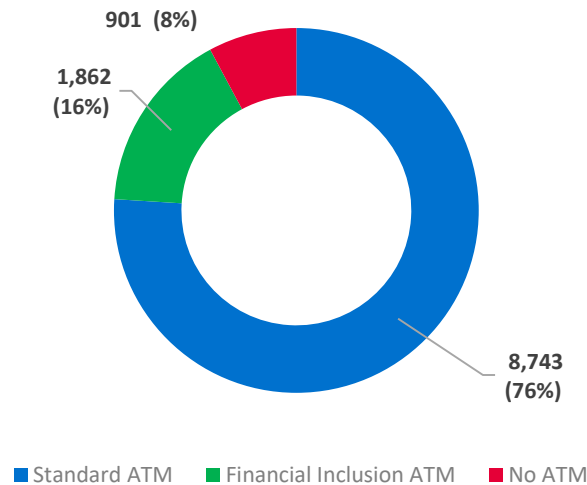
Programme Enhancements from December 2018

On the 23rd January 2019, LINK announced the introduction of additional premiums that can significantly increase payments to ATM operators by up to £2.75 per cash withdrawal. Premiums will be made available to all Protected ATMs (currently 2,466) depending on how well they are used. LINK expects over a thousand to be initially eligible from 1st April. In addition to Protected ATMs, free-to-use ATMs resolving access in the most deprived areas under the Financial Inclusion Programme will also be eligible for increased premiums. These measures are aimed at safeguarding free-to-use ATMs in remote and deprived areas.

Link Interchange Premiums Paid to Support Financial Inclusion



Deprived Areas - Free ATM Access



Remaining Deprived Areas Without a Free ATM

