Connecting Cambridgeshire

Delivering a Digital Connectivity Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 2018 -2022

Foreword

James Palmer, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Councillor Steve Count, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, James Palmer

Digital connectivity is a vital part of our area's infrastructure. The Combined Authority is committed to our region having 'outstanding' digital connectivity that will support the growth of our local economy and improve the day to day lives of our residents. A strong mobile and broadband network is key to enable us to remain competitive in the national and international marketplace through the use of smart technology.

We also want to see greater equity of free public access to Wi-Fi, which is why we are keen to extend free public access across our Market Towns to follow the very successful projects that are already in place in Cambridge and Peterborough.

Building on the success of the local economy and achieving long term sustainable, inclusive growth is a key priority for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) which also impacts on the wider economic strength of the country.

Since the formation of the CPCA just over a year ago we have recognised the impact of digital connectivity infrastructure on businesses and communities and as a result we have prioritised funding for an ambitious digital connectivity strategy for the area to ensure that we have the digital connectivity services we need for now and for the future.

Cambridgeshire County Council Leader, Councillor Steve Count

This is a golden opportunity to build on Connecting Cambridgeshire's experience and track record of successful delivery, which has established Cambridgeshire as a leading digital county. At the programme's inception in 2011, our region had less than 60% coverage for Superfast Broadband, we are now at over 96%, with a goal of achieving 99% by 2020.

Take up of superfast broadband in this region is among the highest in the country, showing that the demand and appetite to remain at the leading edge of digital connectivity is important for our businesses and communities.

We live in a digital world where the internet has become the fourth utility. We are committed to continuing our work, to ensure that our businesses and communities have the fixed and mobile connectivity they need to allow them to compete and thrive, bringing future economic growth to this area.

This vision is shared by the Combined Authority members, who have approved significant funding to enable this work to be extended. By working together with the Combined Authority and telecoms operators, we can meet the ever increasing demand for digital and mobile connectivity which is vital to support economic growth and help our communities to thrive.

Bold vision for Digital Connectivity

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a leading digital county, with a bold vision for investing in future facing connectivity to underpin the region's growth and prosperity.

Our area already achieves a high level of economic success with Cambridge and Peterborough both in the top five fastest growing cities in the UK, with the highest productivity and employment rates of all the mayoral combined authorities*.

Extending the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme

To support this, the innovative Connecting Cambridgeshire digital programme is being extended with ambitious plans to improve mobile, broadband and public Wi-Fi coverage – particularly in market towns and rural villages.

The plans build upon Connecting Cambridgeshire's strength in delivering leading digital programmes, particularly the successful rollout of superfast broadband, which has already reached 96% coverage and is on track to achieve 99% by 2020.

Over the next four years, the programme will target a significant increase in the full fibre footprint across the area, improvements in voice and data mobile coverage (2G & 4G), better public access Wifi and trials of 5G (next generation mobile).

Investment

This wide-ranging digital infrastructure strategy will be supported by a £5.6m investment by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, which was unanimously agreed by Board Members in March 2018.

The programme has also been allocated £4m additional Government funding for Local Full Fibre Networks(LFFN) to provide: fibre upgrades to public buildings at 31 sites across the area; increase full fibre availability along a 'digital innovation corridor' from St Ives to Linton; and support businesses to access Gigabit fibre networks.

Collaboration

Collaborative working has long been a key strength of the partnership programme, and a new Enabling Digital Delivery team (EDD) has been set up to lower the barriers to digital connectivity infrastructure rollout. The dedicated team will work with telecoms providers to use public sector assets innovatively and create conditions that make it commercially viable for full fibre rollout.

This plan supports the Combined Authority's devolution deal commitments to double the size of the economy, deliver outstanding and much needed connectivity, make public services more responsive to local needs and improve people's quality of life.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is led by Cambridgeshire County Council working with Peterborough City Council, Government bodies, local councils, and external organisations, supported through a combination of public funding and private sector investment.

Mobile Coverage

- Coverage is currently poor compared to UK average
- Working with mobile operators to improve network coverage
- Targeting better coverage of A & B roads and rail routes by 2022

Full Fibre

- Targeting threefold expansion of full fibre footprint
- Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) services
- Innovation corridor supplying next generation connectivity

5G Plans

- Trialling & early deployment of future facing 5G services
- Working with businesses to maximise positive economic impact

Public Access Wi-Fi

- Widespread free Wifi in public buildings and open spaces
- Expanding Wifi provision in market towns, village halls and community buildings

Superfast broadband (24mbps +)

- Phase 2 - reached 96% homes & businesses
- Phase 3 – reaching 97% by end 2019
- Phase 4 – targeting >99% by end 2020

*interim report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Commission

connecting CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Future-facing Digital Connectivity f

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a leading digital county, with a bol
funding to ensure we have the future facing connectivity nee
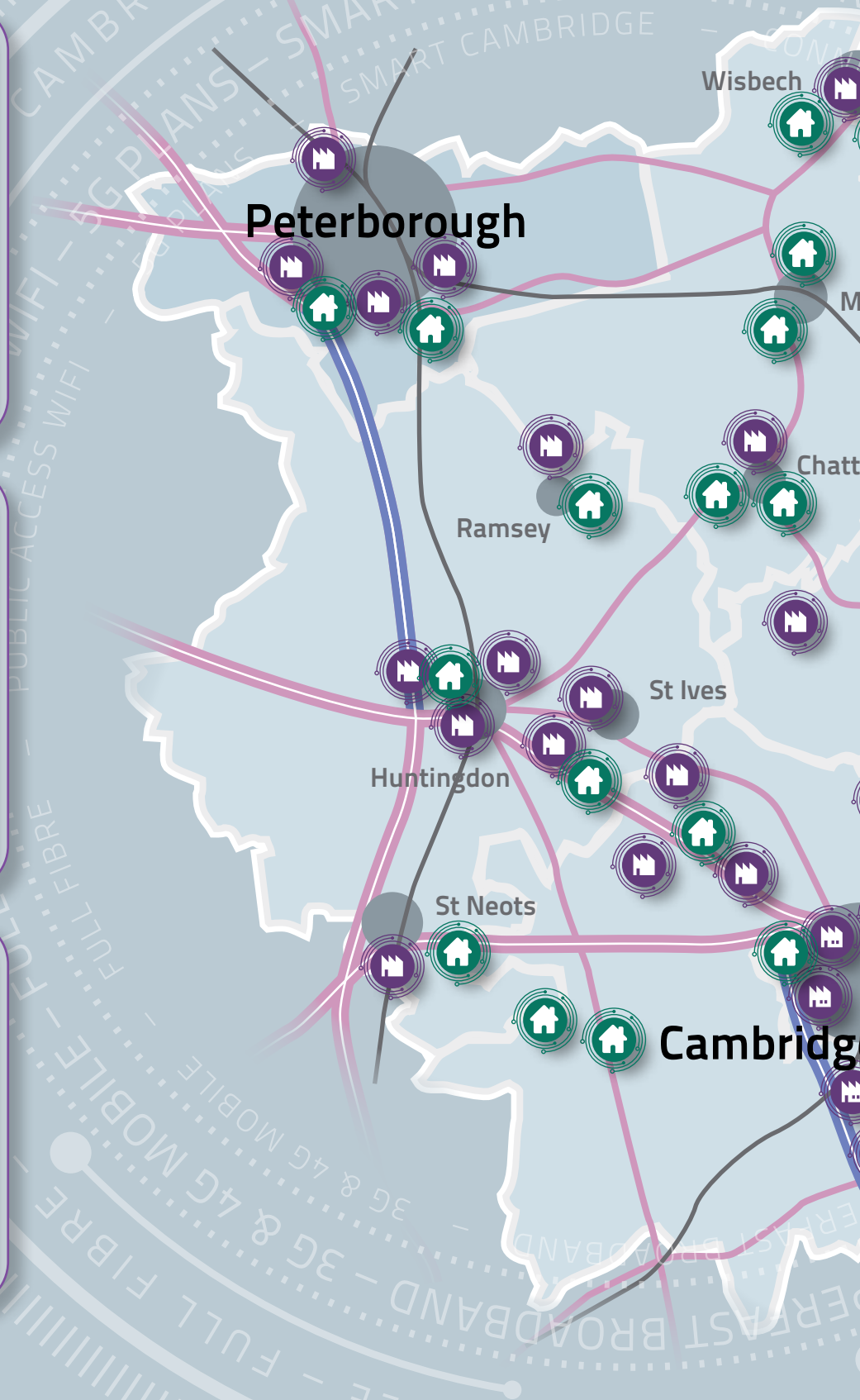
Ambitious delivery plans

- Superfast broadband >99% by 2020
- Mobile Coverage
- Full Fibre
- Public Access WiFi
- 5G

Collaborating for success

- Combined Authority
- Local Councils
- Telecoms Providers
- Businesses
- Communities
- Academia

Strong digital demand

- 54% take up of Superfast broadband
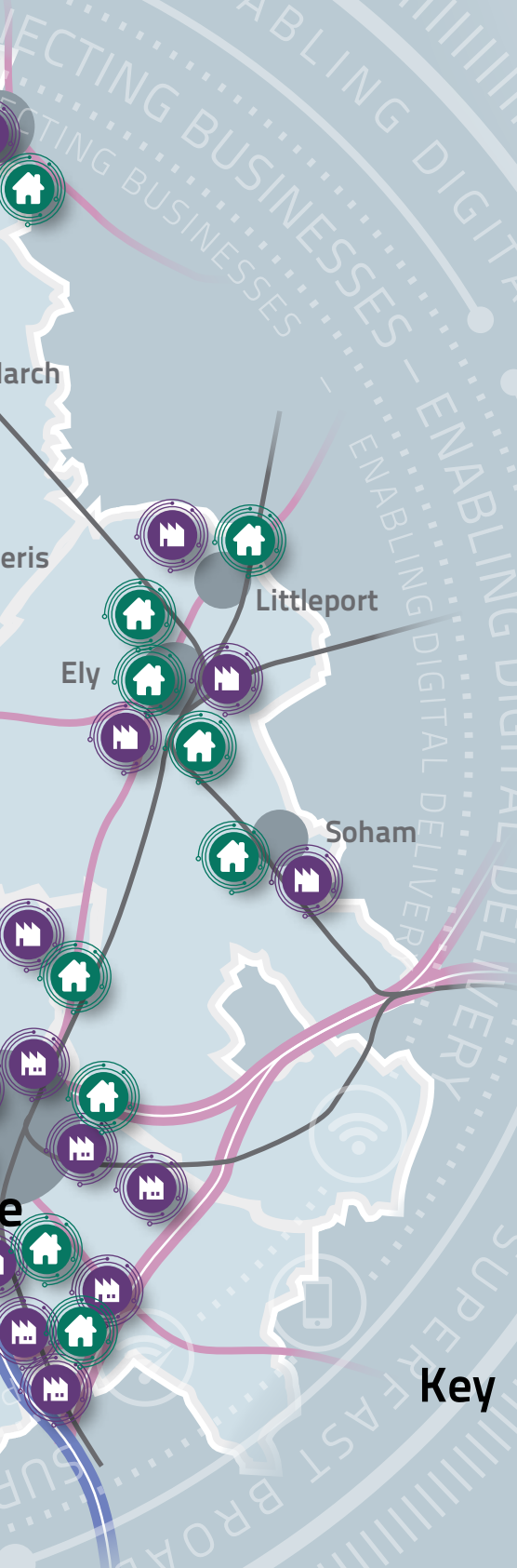- Gigabit vouchers for businesses to access new fibre networks

Wisbech

Peterborough

M

Chatt

Ramsey

St Ives

Huntingdon

St Neots

Cambridg

![Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority logo]

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

or Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

d vision for optimising private sector investment and using public sector
led to underpin the region's significant growth and prosperity.

Fastest growing economy

- Fastest growing region in the UK
- GVA growth of 84.6% (2001–2016)
- International trade increasing by £300m by 2021
- Employment forecast - 90,000 new jobs by 2036

New homes

- Population forecast to rise to >1 million by 2036
- Combined Authority target 29,000 new homes by 2021, rising to 100,000 by 2037

Significant investment

- £10m extended broadband rollout
- £5.6m Combined Authority
- £4m Government Local Full Fibre Networks
- Further Government funding applications underway
- Seeking private sector input

Thriving business communities

- 41,650 businesses of which the majority are SMEs
- 1400 tech' and knowledge based companies in the Cambridge cluster

Innovation

- Digital innovation corridor
- Cambridge and Peterborough in top 10 Huawei Smart Cities Index
- Cambridge is the #1 UK city for patent applications

Key

🏠 Housing sites

🏭 Business/ Research sites

Concept map, not to scale.

Littleport

Ely

Soham

arch

eris

Our ambitions

Over the next four years, the Connecting Cambridgeshire delivery programme will work with telecoms providers and mobile operators to target improvements in fixed and mobile connectivity.

This will be achieved by a combination of maximising private sector investment and using public funding where required, with the following aims and targets:

Superfast Broadband

Having achieved more than 96% superfast broadband coverage, the rollout is now targeting over 99% superfast broadband coverage countywide by the end of 2020. Phase three of the rollout is underway with the aim of reaching 97% by end 2019, and a fourth phase is being planned to reach remaining areas over the next two years.

Under the contract with BT, which includes a clawback clause, an additional funding stream of over £10m has been made available enabling Connecting Cambridgeshire to extend the rollout in the current phase.

Mobile Coverage

Mobile coverage for voice and data (2G and 4G services) is below the England average in all areas of the county except the main cities* causing widespread concern amongst businesses and communities across the region.

The programme aims to improve network coverage so that people can make reliable mobile phone calls and use 4G across the whole geography of the county, including A and B roads, and rail services by 2022.

*Ofcom Connected Nations Report

Full Fibre

Rapid progress in technology means that a ubiquitous full fibre footprint is needed to underpin the local economy, support public services and prepare for the next generation of mobile services. To achieve this, the programme will:

- Target a threefold expansion of full fibre networks across the county bringing 'fibre to the premise' (FTTP) services to many more homes and businesses.

- Provide fibre upgrades to around 30 public buildings, including schools, libraries, fire stations and GP surgeries, across nine locations in Cambridgeshire.

- Create a 40Km stretch of fibre ducting from St Ives to Linton – linking fibre in new and existing routes and making it available to commercial operators to bring Gigabit networks to nearby homes and businesses.

Public Access WiFi

The programme will support emerging masterplans and increase digital inclusion by expanding public access WiFi services in market towns, so more people can get online in public buildings and open spaces.

Free public access WiFi has already been provided to around 150 sites across Cambridgeshire and plans are being developed to support village halls and community buildings.

Connecting Businesses

Full fibre networks are the future and getting ready for a gigabit speed (1,000 megabits) is a key step for most businesses.

Businesses and business parks will be supported to access the new gigabit fibre networks through the Government's £67million Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme, announced in March 2018.

Gigabit vouchers can be used by small and medium sized businesses and the local communities surrounding them to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit capable connection.

Businesses can claim up to £3,000 against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme as part of a group project which also includes businesses, and can claim for a voucher up to the value of £500.

Find out more at
https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk

5G Plans

Cambridgeshire is aiming to be 'ahead of the curve' in trialling future facing 5G – the next generation of mobile services.

Local businesses have already expressed significant interest in using 5G in innovative solutions to some of the biggest challenges facing our region, such as congestion and energy usage. The programme aims to support such innovation by working with mobile operators and businesses to maximise investment and generate long term benefits for the area.

Enabling Digital Delivery (EDD)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are among the first areas in the country to set up a specific team to tackle the barriers to delivering a future proof digital connectivity infrastructure.

The new Enabling Digital Delivery (EDD) team will support plans for full fibre networks, next generation (5G) mobile, and improvements to mobile coverage across the region.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is funding the development of the team within the Connecting Cambridgeshire Programme, which is led by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The EDD team is responsible for:

- Taking action at a local level to remove barriers to the rapid delivery of a digital connectivity infrastructure

- Enabling and encouraging investment in all aspects of digital connectivity across the region

- Finding ways to reduce delays and costs, simplify processes and encourage best practice

- Developing strategic relationships with providers and mobile network operators working across multiple public sector bodies and boundaries

- Providing a central contact point to facilitate and coordinate wayleaves, street works licences and planning, as well as making public sector assets available

- Working closely with the Government's Barrier Busting Task Force to ensure local learning can be shared nationally and to support national initiatives at a local level.

To find out more, contact the EDD team **01223 703293**, or email **edd@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Contact details

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