



# CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

## Digital Connectivity Prospectus **A VISION FOR GROWTH**

A leading region for innovation  
and investment, powered by  
future-ready digital connectivity.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY



# FOREWORD

**Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is a place built on ambition. From world-leading research in Cambridge to the fast-growing economy of Peterborough and the strength of our market towns, our region thrives when we embrace innovation and look to the future.**

Digital connectivity is at the heart of that future. It is the foundation for our businesses to grow, for our public services to modernise, and for our communities to access the opportunities of a rapidly changing world. Fast, reliable broadband and strong mobile coverage are not luxuries - they are essential infrastructure for a thriving economy and a fair society.

Over recent years, Connecting Cambridgeshire has delivered remarkable progress: gigabit coverage rising to over 92%, major improvements to mobile connectivity, millions in government and industry investment unlocked, and new foundations laid for smart transport, digital inclusion and next-generation technology. But there is more to do - and we are ready to do it.

This prospectus sets out our ambition to become the best-connected region in the UK. It also sets out a clear message to suppliers, investors and innovators: we want to work with you. There are real opportunities here - from rural not-spots that need inventive solutions, to urban areas ready for small cells and 5G, to new developments that can be built digital-first.

My commitment as Mayor is simple: we will be a proactive, collaborative partner. We will help remove barriers, accelerate delivery, and unlock opportunities for investment and innovation across our region.

Together, we can build the digital infrastructure that will power our economy, support our communities, and ensure Cambridgeshire & Peterborough continues to lead the way.

**Paul Bristow**

**Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough**

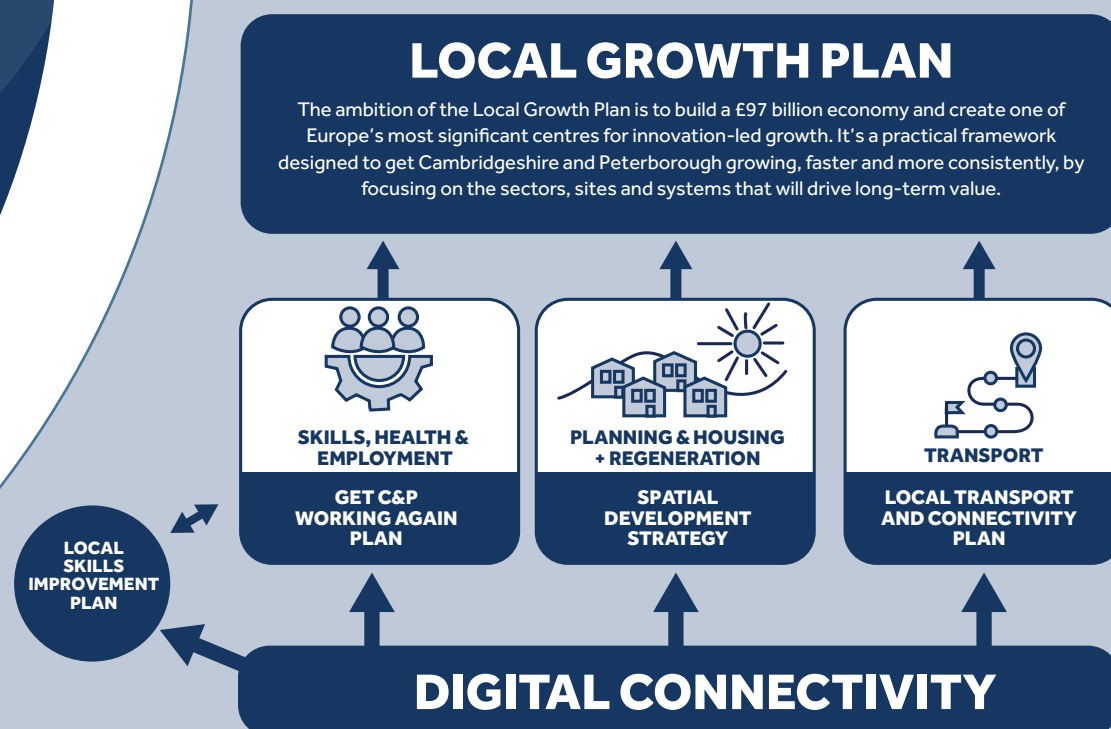


# OUR REGION

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is one of the UK's fastest-growing and most innovative regions, home to globally significant clusters in life sciences, AI, advanced manufacturing, Agri-tech, clean tech and creative digital industries. Our ability to stay at the forefront of innovation depends on world-class digital infrastructure.

Digital connectivity is more than a supporting utility - it is a core catalyst for economic growth and resilience, directly underpinning the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) and Local Growth Plan (LGP).

A thriving tech ecosystem, high-value employment, and a growing population mean demand for fast, reliable digital services has never been higher. With strong university partnerships, pioneering start-ups, and a highly skilled workforce, this region offers suppliers and investors a unique opportunity to deploy cutting-edge infrastructure at scale.



Read more in the  
Local Growth Plan



# Achievements so far

## Our connectivity journey so far (2019–2026)

Over the past seven years, Connecting Cambridgeshire has led the transformation of our region's digital infrastructure - unlocking more than £190 million in government and commercial investment from an initial £5.8 million CPCA funding commitment.

We have driven gigabit coverage to over 92% of premises, exceeding national targets ahead of schedule, and are on track to reach more than 98% through continued coordinated investment and support for commercial and Project Gigabit delivery.

**OVER**  
**92%**  
**Gigabit coverage**  
**of premises**

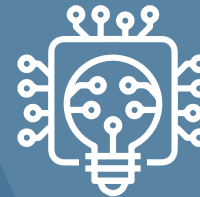
**MORE THAN**  
**£190m**  
**Unlocked government**  
**& commercial**  
**investment**



**SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN 4G COVERAGE**, with an additional 10% uplift targeted by 2029.



**EXPANSION OF FIBRE DUCTING** through major transport schemes, enabling future-proof deployments. Supported through collaborative working for planning, asset access and community engagement. Working with several full fibre providers to support their delivery including dedicated Street Works resource.



**MORE THAN 30 DIGITAL HUBS** (32 grants awarded, actual delivery across more than 40 venues. Enabling community groups, through the provision of access to devices and resources, to support their communities. Working collaboratively with organisations to deliver corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals.



### **DELIVERY OF TESTBEDS AND INNOVATION TRIALS**

through DSIT-funded programmes, including the Cambridgeshire Open RAN Ecosystem 5G project and other smart infrastructure projects. Project Management resources, access to assets and use case development all supported to achieve this.



# Our Ambition: 2026–2029 & beyond

Our vision is for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to be the best-connected region in the UK - a place where residents, businesses and public services benefit from fast, reliable, affordable digital access.

The next phase of delivery will:

-  **DRIVE** gigabit coverage beyond 98%
-  **IMPROVE** 4G and 5G geographic coverage
-  **DEPLOY** more km of new fibre ducting
-  **ENABLE** new small cell deployments and 5G standalone expansion
-  **FACILITATE** better use of data to improve public services
-  **DELIVER** innovation trials in transport, health, Agri tech and clean growth
-  **CONTINUE** to enable and expand free public access to fast, reliable, safe connectivity
-  **EMPOWER** communities to get online safely and confidently by enabling access to digital infrastructure for all, reducing inequality, and supporting digital inclusion..

**This strengthened infrastructure will help unlock new jobs, support sustainable growth, and reinforce the region's global position as an innovation super cluster.**



# Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

## A DIGITAL REGION

This map shows where growth has already taken place across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, and the digital infrastructure that has helped enable it.

As a recognised growth zone, the region has invested in Local Full Fibre networks, fibre ducting through major infrastructure schemes, and smart connectivity to support innovation, regeneration and economic development. Together, these foundations have helped create a digitally enabled region ready to grow further.

CambWifi is provided through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme with additional funding from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to help keep businesses and communities connected.

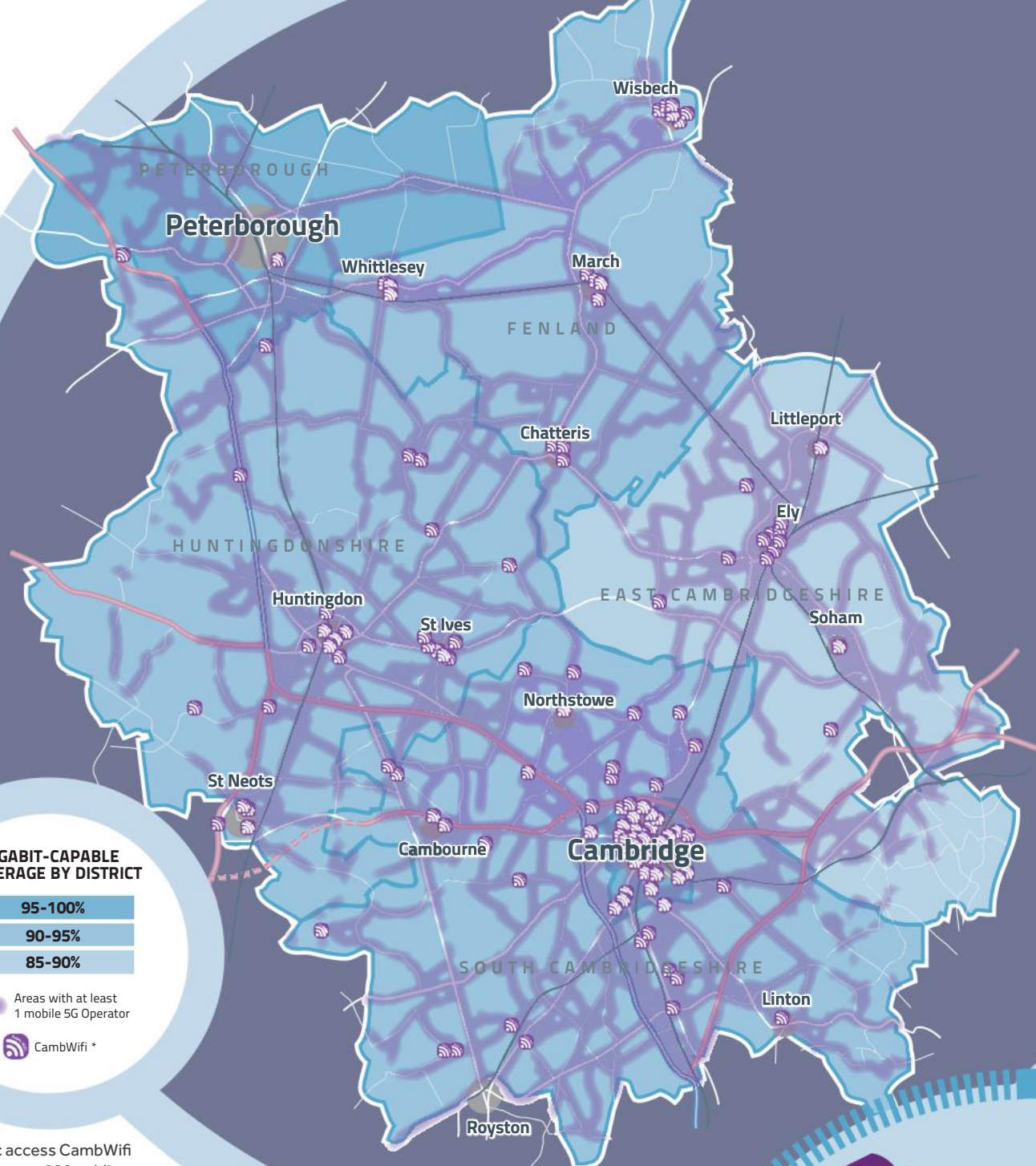
### GIGABIT-CAPABLE COVERAGE BY DISTRICT

|         |
|---------|
| 95-100% |
| 90-95%  |
| 85-90%  |

Areas with at least  
1 mobile 5G Operator



\*Free, public access CambWifi is available in over 200 public buildings and open spaces across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



# Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

## A GROWTH REGION

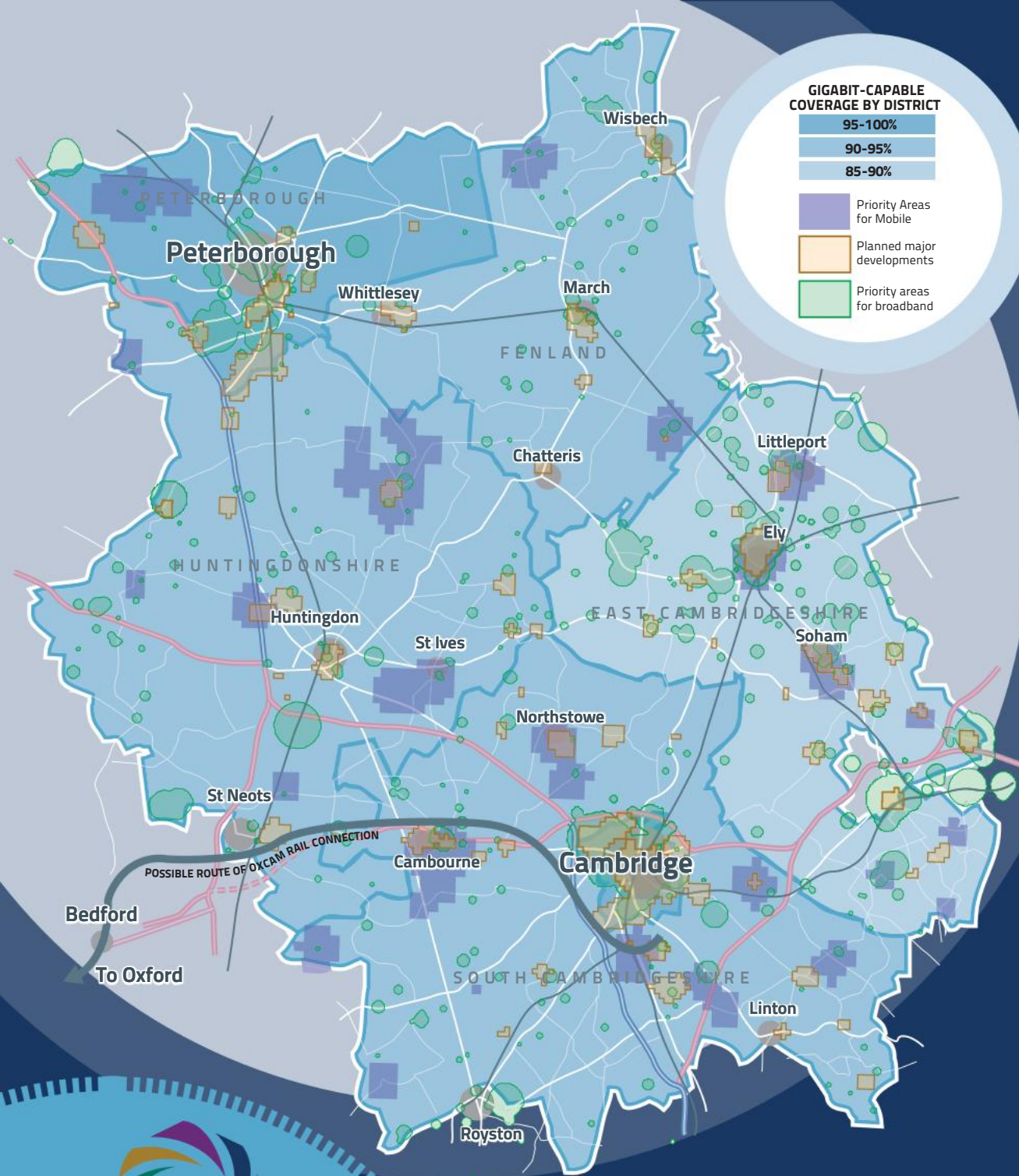
This map highlights where Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is growing next — and where digital connectivity will be critical to unlocking that growth.

Major developments across the region, from the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Genome Campus to Peterborough's regeneration areas and the continued evolution of city and market town high streets, will depend on fast, reliable and resilient digital infrastructure. These places need better broadband, stronger mobile coverage and future-ready networks to support research, business growth, innovation, footfall and new ways of working.

The Greater Cambridge Development Corporation, a statutory delivery body set up as a new local-national partnership, focuses on accelerating growth within Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, whilst the Combined Authority ensures that major infrastructure, housing and job creation deliver lasting tangible benefits across the region, including Peterborough, the Fens and our market towns.

Connecting Cambridgeshire works closely with the Combined Authority and local partners to align digital infrastructure with housing, employment, transport and regeneration plans. For suppliers, this offers a clear opportunity: a pipeline of growth locations, strong political support, and a proactive region ready to work in partnership to deliver the next generation of connectivity.

This is why suppliers should come to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough - a region where connectivity enables growth, and growth creates demand for world-class digital networks.



# The challenge and the opportunity

Despite major progress, connectivity gaps remain - particularly in rural communities and challenging urban pockets. Independent mobile testing reveals coverage levels significantly poorer than reported by operators in several locations, including Ely, Northstowe, Ramsey, Soham and the Genome Campus.

## Challenges

-  **PERSISTENT 4G/5G notspots**
-  **GIGABIT GAPS / supplier innovation**
-  **CONGESTED urban mobile hotspots**
-  **TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT constraints, creating demand for smart mobility tech**
-  **DIGITAL EXCLUSION leading to wider social disadvantage**

Similarly, around 10,000 premises are still at risk of missing out on gigabit broadband without continued intervention and supplier collaboration, due to Project Gigabit delays and gaps in commercial viability.

## Opportunities for suppliers

-  **A REGION** with clear political leadership and a funded strategy
-  **HIGH GROWTH** and dense innovation clusters
-  **PROACTIVE** local authorities with asset access and barrier-busting support
-  **A BUSINESS CASE** that demonstrates strong ROI for connectivity improvements



# Supplier Opportunities

## WORK WITH US

### How we can help you

Connecting Cambridgeshire is a proactive, collaborative delivery partner for telecoms operators, infrastructure providers, and innovators. Our established programme team removes barriers, aligns partners, and accelerates delivery.

### What we offer:

-  **BARRIER-BUSTING SERVICE** – dedicated support through planning, highways, permitting, street works coordination
-  **ACCESS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSETS** including buildings, land, ducting and street lighting columns - with a Digital Infrastructure Policy and PFI-route solution being implemented to enable small cells and IoT equipment on street lighting poles
-  **DIG-ONCE APPROACH** – delivering 20km of fibre ducting through transport and infrastructure schemes (2026–2029)
-  **LOCAL DATA, MAPS & INSIGHTS** from independent mobile testing and broadband gap analysis
-  **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** support for sensitive deployments
-  **POLICY BACKING** through CPCA's corporate plan, LTCP & Local Growth Plan alignment



# Social Value

## Connectivity for Everyone

Digital connectivity is essential to enabling access to jobs, education, healthcare, public services and social participation. Through our Digital Hubs scheme, skills training, device access initiatives and expanded market town- centre WiFi, we help residents make full use of digital opportunities, while suppliers can partner with us to deliver meaningful social value at scale.

Opportunities for suppliers include but are not limited to:

-  **FREE** connectivity for public spaces such as village halls
-  **SPONSOR** digital skills sessions
-  **SUPPORT** device donation and recycling
-  **CO-DESIGN** use-cases for smart sensors supporting communities
-  **SUPPORT** local trials in health, safety and environment tech
-  **MEANINGFUL** community engagement



# COLLABORATE *with us*

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is open for collaboration.  
Whether you're a fibre or mobile operator, infrastructure provider,  
tech innovator or investor - this is the place to build, scale and  
test next-generation connectivity.

## Working with Connecting Cambridgeshire gives you:



**A single point of contact**



**A highly credible, experienced  
delivery team**



**Political support and a funded  
regional strategy**



**Access to one of the UK's  
strongest innovation  
ecosystems**



## Get in touch:

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