

Connecting Cambridgeshire Members Update

December 2025

Our highlights of 2025

As 2025 wraps up, we want to share the progress we've made together over the last 12 months.

Thanks to your continued support, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is one of the best-connected regions in the UK. There's certainly more to do, but the close of the year is a good time to celebrate the milestones and achievements.

- **Gigabit broadband coverage:** Over 92% of premises now have access - hitting the 85% national target a full year early and ahead of the national average.
- **Mobile improvements:** Our barrier-busting work and independent mobile coverage testing data is being used to drive better 4G coverage for communities, road/rail lines, business & research parks and preparing the ground for 5G. Overall, there has been a 5% increase in good 4G mobile coverage accross our region in 20.
- **Innovation leadership:** Our CORE 5G Open Ran project is bringing cutting-edge technology to venues like Cambridge Corn Exchange. Our sensor deployments are collecting data on water levels, air quality and traffic patterns, while our delivery of the GCP autonomous vehicle trial is providing crucial insight to future transport innovation, putting Cambridgeshire at the forefront of smart technology.
- **Digital inclusion:** Digital Switchover campaign launched for residents and businesses. 12+ Digital Hubs created with 17 more scheduled to come on board in the new year - to help residents access devices, skills and support. Digital Inclusion Directory co-produced with Cambridge City Council and Cambridge Online, and we've supported district councils with shared prosperity funded digital inclusion projects locally.
- **Award wins:** National recognition for our work - the CORE 5G OpenRAN project won two major industry awards (at the Small Cell Forum Mobile Network Awards and Connected Britain) and the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme earned two finalist spots at the prestigious LGC Awards. We also celebrated a second win at the Connected Britain Awards where our Digital Inclusion Lead, Will Plant, was named Rising Star - showcasing the talent and innovation driving our region forward.



Milestones and achievements 2025



Percentage of premises that can access gigabit broadband – ahead of national average.

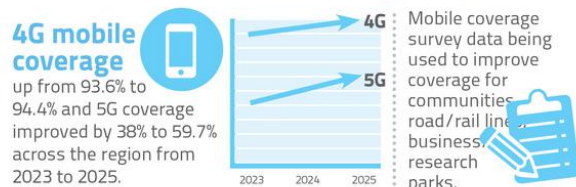


Digital Inclusion

- ▶ Economic value of digital inclusion – over £9 return for every £1 invested. (*2022 Capita/Cebr report)
- ▶ A £1,100 annual saving for families that are online**
- ▶ Better opportunities for education, employment and access to key public services such as healthcare for digitally included people.
- ▶ Regional Digital Inclusion Strategy Agreed.
- ▶ Grant scheme launched to enable a countywide network of Digital Hubs.
- ▶ Digital Switchover help for residents and businesses.



4G and 5G Mobile coverage improved



Free CambWifi available in 200+ public buildings, city market town centres, and community buildings.

DIG ONCE POLICY

Dig Once policy delivers economic and environmental benefits by embedding fibre ducting into transport infrastructure projects. Avoiding costly retrofitting and supporting broadband expansion into underserved areas.

To date, over 46km of fibre ducting has been installed or designed into schemes for delivery by 2029, saving over 40 tonnes of CO₂ emissions* – equivalent to 2,000 round-trip flights between London and Paris.

*Estimated using Highways England calculator

Project Gigabit

Work is underway in Cambridgeshire by CityFibre to connect approx. 45,000 hard-to-reach premises with government-funded gigabit-capable fibre.



Over £220m additional government and commercial partner funding together with supplier investment, leveraged from £20m of public funding to support new connectivity projects and unlock innovation opportunities – meaning £11 brought in for every £1 invested.

All figures correct as of September 2025

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Why it matters and what's coming next

Digital connectivity is more than technology – it's about enabling education, healthcare, business growth, and social inclusion. Good connectivity strengthens our communities and opens doors to new opportunities.

In January, the Combined Authority Investment Committee will be reviewing the business case for funding the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Connectivity Programme delivery for the next three years.

CONTACT US

Contact the team if you or your constituents have any queries or concerns:

EMAIL

connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk - please include details of the location and postcode, if relevant, to help us investigate and respond as soon as possible.

CALL

Leave us a message on
01223 703293.

Hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council and led by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, with additional investment from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Connectivity Programme works with local councils, government, telecoms suppliers and network operators to improve digital connectivity for all.

There's still more to do

- Without our ongoing support and intervention, around 10,000 premises could still miss out on gigabit broadband without local action.
- While we have excellent coverage in some areas of the county, there are some areas that still lack full coverage from all three mobile networks with some areas, 5.6% of the surveyed area – including parts of Northstowe, Ely city centre, Ramsey and Soham - struggling to get good 4G coverage from any operator.
- Continued growth in the region requires ongoing support to ensure that connectivity is provided in the right places for residents and businesses.
- Future facing connectivity is a cornerstone of the Combined Authority's strategic framework; a sub-strategy of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan and underpinning the region's growth ambitions. Within the Local Growth Plan, digital infrastructure is not merely a supporting element but a fundamental catalyst for economic resilience and regional prosperity.
- Cambridgeshire is already seen as a leader in smart technology and connectivity trials, but to stay at the forefront, we need to build on our reputation for innovation. We need to continue fostering collaboration with industry and academia, creating opportunities for pilot projects and testbeds. This will ensure the region remains a top choice for companies looking to trial and invest in emerging technologies, driving economic growth and future-ready infrastructure.
- Our team regularly responds to enquiries from residents and councillors across the county and while many issues have been resolved, we're still keen to hear from you and any residents unable to access good mobile or broadband connectivity.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all our partners, councillors, and communities for your continued support. Please continue to contact us with any queries, issues or questions about coverage:

connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Together, we're making
Cambridgeshire &
Peterborough a truly
connected region.

**Wishing you a joyful festive
season and a bright,
connected New Year!**

