

Connecting Cambridgeshire Members Update

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Connecting Cambridgeshire is driving improvements to the county's digital infrastructure, including broadband and mobile, investigating smart technologies to improve the environment and extending free public access Wifi to support digital inclusion.

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

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

POSTCODE CHECKER

Use our [postcode checker](#) to find out if gigabit broadband is already available in your area, if you might be included in Project Gigabit, or to check eligibility for Gigabit Broadband Vouchers.

Free CambWifi



Free CambWifi is continuing to expand its reach across Cambridgeshire market towns, helping to improve digital inclusion and support local economies. The secure public access Wifi network is now live in Ely, Huntingdon, March, Ramsey, St Ives, St Neots and Peterborough, with Whittlesey and Oxmoor due to be connected next. It's also widely available in public buildings, libraries and leisure centres across the county, plus Cambridge Park & Ride sites.



Look out for our new CambWifi stickers to remind locals and inform visitors to get online for free while on the go!

➤ [Find out where to access CambWifi and how to join it](#)

Digital Inclusion



Connecting Cambridgeshire's new Digital Inclusion lead officer, Will Plant, joins us this month from Westminster City Council where he gained wide experience as Digital Inclusion Manager. He will be working with the library service and other key organisations to ensure residents can gain digital skills and get connected.

Our [Social Tariff awareness campaign](#) was launched in late May and shared in libraries and schools to highlight cheaper broadband and mobile deals available for people on low incomes or claiming government benefits.

➤ [Find out about help available to get online](#)



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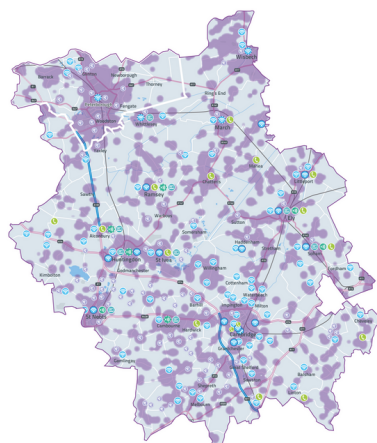
District Digital Overviews

Connecting Cambridgeshire works closely with city/district councils to keep Members and officers updated on the progress of the digital infrastructure strategy and the digital connectivity issues for their area.

District Digital Overviews have been developed to provide a one-page summary of digital coverage data for each area to support local digital strategies and help to define digital priorities.

These have been shared with Connecting Cambridgeshire Programme Board, and the latest versions are available

to view on our [website](#).



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Broadband



Gigabit broadband coverage across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has risen to over 79% (June 2023) with the prospect of future-proof connectivity for many more homes and businesses through public and private investment. This puts us ahead of projections to achieve our target of 85% gigabit capable coverage by 2025.

The Government's Project Gigabit contract to extend gigabit-capable full fibre coverage to >45,000 harder-to-reach premises in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been awarded to City Fibre, with the £69million rollout due to start in September 2023 and the first connections due in early 2024.

Our proactive approach to barrier busting continues to be instrumental in facilitating commercial delivery:

homeowners in Stilton are the first to be connected to Gigaclear's new £39m full fibre network, whilst CityFibre, County Broadband, Connect Fibre, Netomnia and Upp networks are expanding rapidly.

➤ [Find out more about Project Gigabit](#)

Gigabit Voucher Schemes



Connecting Cambridgeshire will work with communities where no Project Gigabit or commercial coverage is planned, to ensure residents don't miss out on the opportunity to apply for Rural Gigabit Vouchers to install full fibre connections (£4,500 per premise plus £1,500 top up if eligible) - when they become available again for Cambridgeshire residents in the autumn.

➤ [Find out more about gigabit voucher schemes](#)

Funding



Connecting Cambridgeshire has secured £76k funding to trial Open RAN (Radio Area Network) technology in the region working in conjunction with AWTC as part of their Future RAN competition to show how it can be used to improve mobile connectivity.

A major funding bid has also been submitted to the Dept. for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Open Networks Ecosystem (ONE) Competition to improve mobile capacity in high density places.

➤ [Learn more about the ONE competition](#)

