A quarterly update designed to keep you up-to-speed with our work and links to further information.

March 2023

Connecting Cambridgeshire Members update

Connecting Cambridgeshire is delivering next-generation broadband and mobile coverage, using 'Smart' technologies to improve the environment, and extending free public access Wifi, while supporting digital inclusion.

Hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council and led by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, the programme is working with local councils, Government, telecoms suppliers and community groups 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.
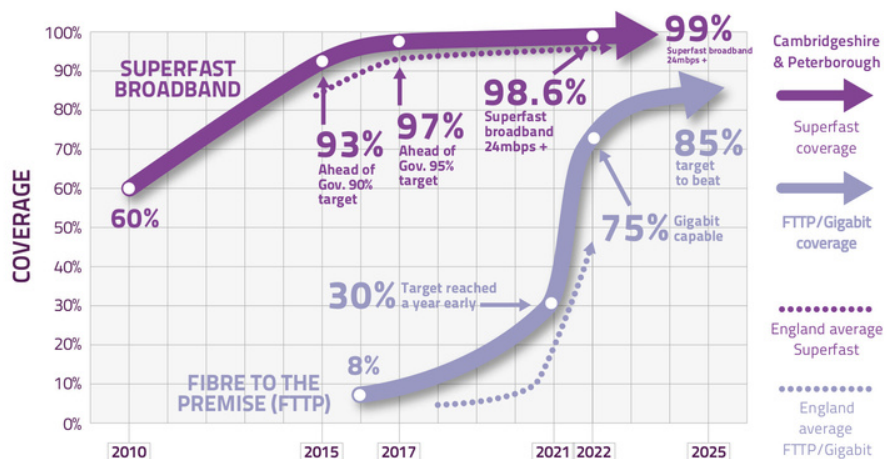
CALL
Leave us a message on 01223 703293

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.

Broadband

Both superfast and full fibre broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are above the national average and ahead of Government targets. However, work is ongoing to bring future-proof connectivity to homes and businesses in harder-to-reach areas.

Project Gigabit

The Government's BDUK programme is due to announce which broadband supplier will be awarded the Project Gigabit contract, to extend gigabit-capable full fibre coverage to >45,000 harder-to-reach premises in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

> **Read more about Project Gigabit**

Gigabit broadband vouchers

Government Gigabit Vouchers of £4,500 together with top-ups of £1,500 (funded by CPCA) will be available to cover the cost of installing fibre broadband for eligible groups of rural premises that aren't in commercial plans or covered by Project Gigabit. We'll be engaging directly with businesses and residents in eligible areas to encourage take-up of this funding where possible.
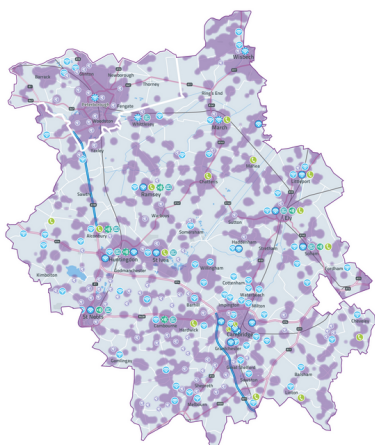
> **Find out about Gigabit Vouchers**

Members update

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.

Broadband suppliers in your area?

Communities are seeing increasing numbers of fibre broadband providers actively rolling out gigabit capable fibre networks in our area. The Connecting Cambridgeshire team is working with suppliers and council teams to support and encourage this investment, however, because of the highly competitive market, commercial rollout plans are rarely announced ahead of delivery and may change at short notice.

Most suppliers actively engage with communities before build work starts - usually by letter - but this can raise questions from residents, especially as different fibre providers may share the same sub-contractors. We are talking regularly to providers to ensure proactive community engagement and we encourage any Members, residents or businesses with questions or concerns to contact us.

Mobile coverage

Connecting Cambridgeshire is working with local authorities and mobile network operators (MNOs) looking to invest in 4G and 5G networks to improve coverage and capacity, which will have a long-term economic impact for the area.

This includes commissioning local surveys to understand areas of poor mobile connectivity, data analysis of planning applications for mobile masts and the appointment of digital connectivity planning officers to liaise with MNOs.

Local mobile surveys

Additional detailed mobile phone coverage testing is currently underway to update previous survey work and highlight coverage issues. The results will be analysed and shared in due course.

> **MobileUK has provided a useful mobile toolkit for Members**

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