

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

March 2024

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# Connecting Cambridgeshire Members Update

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



### Gigabit broadband target hit a year early!

UK Government set a target for gigabit broadband to be available to 85% of the UK by 2025 and nationwide by 2030. Gigabit-capable broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has hit the target of 85% a year early. This means superfast and full fibre broadband coverage is above the national average, and we are ahead of Government targets on both fronts which is great news for our area.



Work is ongoing to bring future-proof connectivity to homes and businesses in harder-to-reach areas and we are collaborating with BDUK and CityFibre to ensure Project Gigabit rolls out smoothly in the right areas, as well as providing support to other rural commercial fibre providers.

#### Mobile coverage improvements

Analysis of the mobile survey data collected last year has been completed, and work is now being undertaken to engage with mobile operators - to encourage and enable future improvements in areas of poor connectivity. We'll update Members when we have news about your areas.

### CONTACT US

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

#### EMAIL

<u>connecting.cambridgeshire@</u> <u>cambridgeshire.gov.uk</u> - 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 <u>postcode checker</u> 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.







# **District Digital Overviews**

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

District Digital Overviews provide a one-page summary of digital coverage data for each area to support local digital strategies and help to define digital priorities. The latest versions are available to view on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website.



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# Members Update



# Project Gigabit

CityFibre has begun work to connect almost 45,000 hardto-reach premises in Cambridgeshire as part of the government's £5bn Project Gigabit programme.

Construction has now started, following extensive planning and design work, with the first locations in the county to benefit from the new digital infrastructure including Fen Ditton, Grantchester and Milton.

While the first connected premises aren't expected to be live until mid-2024, CityFibre will also be connecting a further 170,000 homes across Cambridgeshire as it aligns its nationwide rollout with the Project Gigabit programme. We'll have more updates as the survey work progresses, and the next phase of the project will see work starting in the following areas:

Farcet Fulbourn Little Shelford Marholm Thorney Waterbea

Fulbourn Great Shelford Marholm Newborough Waterbeach Whittlesey

Read the latest Project Gigabit progress update

## **Digital Inclusion**



At the end of February, Connecting Cambridgeshire attended a coffee morning in Sutton led by the local Timebank for Volunteers. in response to a request for information about the upcoming Digital Switchover.

We were also invited to an infrastructure panel at the first Citizens Assembly held by St Neots Initiative. The session discussed the past, present, and future of infrastructure in St Neots and provided an opportunity to discuss the CambWifi provision in the town and upcoming digital inclusion work.

In May we will be launching the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to help tackle digital exclusion across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Our ambition is for the strategy to be adopted by all partner councils, and for digital inclusion to be embedded and integrated into all partner council services.

If you're interested in knowing more about how best to tackle digital exclusion in your areas, please contact our Digital Inclusion Lead, <u>Will Plant via email</u>.

> Visit our 'Help to get online' page for Digital Inclusion info

🛞 www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk

🕑 @ConnectingCambs