

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.



Making progress

Connecting Cambridgeshire recently provided a [Digital Connectivity Progress Update](#) summarising progress in the delivery of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Digital Connectivity Strategy for 2022-2023.

The report, presented to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Transport and [Infrastructure Committee on 13 September](#), details how the programme is driving next-generation broadband connectivity and mobile coverage, using Smart technologies to improve the environment, and extending free public access Wifi, while supporting digital inclusion.

It also highlights our collaborative work with multiple partners, which underpins wider ambitions for the region including greater use of sustainable transport, reducing health inequality, progress towards net zero and mitigating climate change.

CONTACT US

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

EMAIL

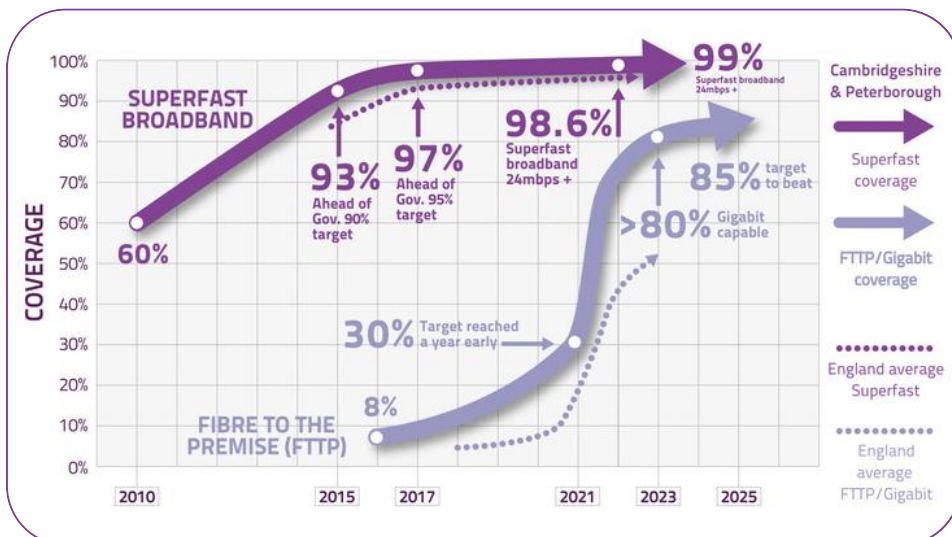
connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk - please include details of the location and postcode, if relevant, to help us investigate and respond as soon as possible.

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.



Superfast and FTTP progress chart, August 2023



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Funding bids bring >£10m

The Connecting Cambridgeshire team has successfully bid for over £10 million additional funding from government and commercial partners to support innovative technology projects aiming to unlock new connectivity opportunities and encourage investment in the county's digital infrastructure.

Find out more about the projects:



Smart Poles - Innovative plans to make Cambridgeshire County Council-owned street lighting columns (Smart Poles) available to the telecoms market to host a range of devices have been awarded £220k government funding from the DSIT Smart Infrastructure Pilot Programme (SIPP) match funded by industry partners.

Smart Poles in selected locations will be developed to host devices including small cells to improve mobile coverage, environmental sensor networks, public access Wi-Fi and potentially electric vehicle charging. The successful bid was announced at the Connected Britain conference on 20 September.

➤ [Learn more about the SIPP Project](#)



The **CORE Project** will develop and trial an open radio access network (RAN) solution to improve 5G mobile capacity for high demand, densely populated areas of Cambridgeshire.

Supported by Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire Open RAN Ecosystem (CORE) Project has been awarded over £6.5 million in the Dept. for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Open Networks Ecosystem (ONE) Competition. This will be combined with £2.7million commercial investment from a consortium of next-generation infrastructure service providers, technology developers, mobile network operators, renowned research universities and market-leading equipment manufacturers, led by Connecting Cambridgeshire.

➤ [Find out more about the CORE Project](#)

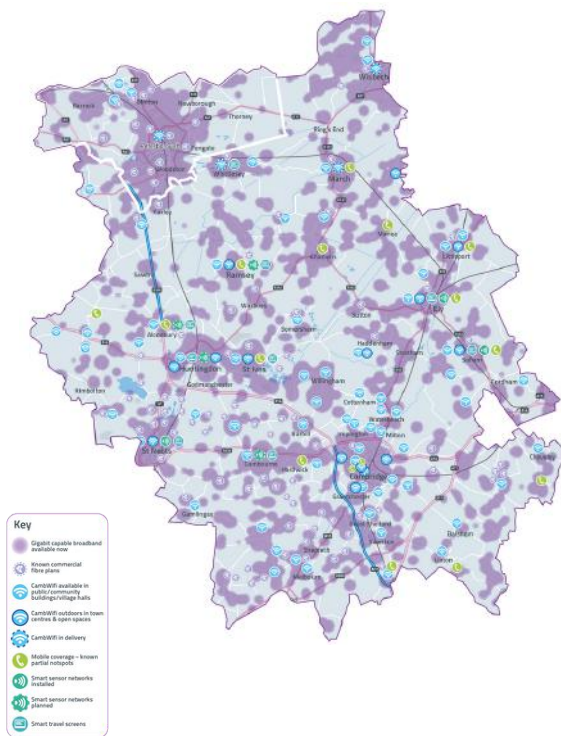
5G Innovation Regions bid - Connecting Cambridgeshire is also supporting a joint regions funding bid to DSIT for up to £3.8m from the 5G Innovations Regions (5G IR) to drive adoption of 5G and other advanced wireless technologies to create a more inclusive, competitive and innovative digital economy.

Led by Oxfordshire County Council, the region comprises Buckinghamshire Council, all Berkshire Authorities (represented by West Berkshire), Central Bedfordshire, and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority. This region has multiple synergies, including education, R&D, advanced manufacturing and technology, similar mixes of rural environments and agriculture, and the importance of transport and logistics with East West Rail and HS2 under construction. The outcome of the bid is expected to be announced in November 2023.



District Digital Overviews

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. The latest versions are available to view on the Connecting Cambridgeshire [website](#).



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Digital Inclusion – request for information from Members



Being 'digitally included' means something different to everyone, so digital support will vary depending on where it is based and who it is delivered to. That's why we're trying to piece together what digital inclusion work has been conducted and is being delivered across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough so that we can look to consolidate and coordinate this work and begin planning to plug any gaps that might exist.

We're engaging with district council partners, as well as voluntary and community sector organisations to help us do this and are keen to use Members' local knowledge and networks to ensure we're getting as much information as possible. If you would like to share any information or ideas relating to digital inclusion, please get in touch with our Digital Inclusion Lead Will Plant by emailing will.plant@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Do you know about the Digital Switchover?

The UK's telephone network is changing. Sometimes referred to as the "Copper Switch Off", between now and 2025 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology.

Services such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over, so we have a critical role to play to support residents. [Find out more about the digital switchover](#) and download the toolkit provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) to help inform and reassure residents.

Helping people get online

Connecting Cambridgeshire supported [End Digital Poverty Day](#) in September and will be signposting to free digital inclusion events taking place during [Get Online Week](#) (16-22 Oct) and [CambsDigiWeek](#) (24-27 Oct) including: **Working together to get Cambridgeshire online - 26 October, 1pm to 2.30pm**, a free online networking discussion hosted by Will Plant, Digital Inclusion Lead for Connecting Cambridgeshire. Book your place [here](#).

➤ [Visit our 'Help to get online' page for more advice & info](#)

