



DERA Report

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

June 2026

Purpose

This report analyses geographies at risk of digital exclusion across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough using the Digital Exclusion Risk Atlas (DERA) framework. It identifies where exclusion is most concentrated, key drivers, and variation at the neighbourhood level.

The final section of this report considers the findings from this analysis in the context of Digital Inclusion interventions already being delivered in the region.

Sophie Skrimshire
Connecting Cambridgeshire

Contents:

1. [Understanding DERA](#) – Background to the Digital Exclusion Risk Analysis (DERA) Tool and an overview of its methodology
2. [Key Findings for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#) – An analysis of patterns and prevalence of digital exclusion risk factors across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
3. [Inter-District Comparison](#) – An overview of districts and LSOAs at greatest risk of digital exclusion.
4. [Intra-District Comparisons](#) – Detailing ward level variation of risk, and the different drivers.
5. [Support Available Already](#) – Overview of local digital inclusion support available within or nearby the wards listed above. Includes identification of gaps.

1. Understanding DERA:

DERA is a composite risk index combining four domains made up of 3 proxies each.

D1 – Digital Access and Capability	D2 – Affordability and Economic Pressure	D3 – Ability and Skills	D4 – Agency, Motivation and Trust
D1.1 Fixed broadband coverage (% of households receiving fixed broadband download speeds below 10Mbps)	D2.1 Communications affordability pressure (Residents claiming unemployment-related benefits)	D3.1 Low educational attainment (Residents with low or no formal qualifications)	D4.1 Older age structure (Residents aged 65 and over)
D1.2 Mobile data constraint (% of households without reliable indoor 4G coverage from all major mobile network providers)	D2.2 Income deprivation (Income deprivation domain score from Index of Multiple Deprivation)	D3.2 English language support needed (Residents with limited English proficiency (speaking English "Not well" or "Not at all"))	D4.2 Living alone later in life (Residents aged 65 and over living alone)
D1.3 Digital Capabilities Proxy (% of census responses submitted online)	D2.3 Housing insecurities proxy (Health deprivation and disability domain from Index of Multiple Deprivation)	D3.3 Disability and long-term illness (Residents whose day-to-day activities are limited (a little or a lot) due to long term condition or disability)	D4.3 Trust and online safety concern proxy (Recorded cybercrime and fraud offences)

Scores are calculated at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level, ranked nationally and grouped into national deciles (with 1 being the highest risk decile).

DERA can be used to identify risk at a granular level and show different exclusion systems, rather than one singular driver (such as deprivation).

A link to the DERA tool can be found here: [DERA | Digital Exclusion Risk Atlas \(DERA\)](#)

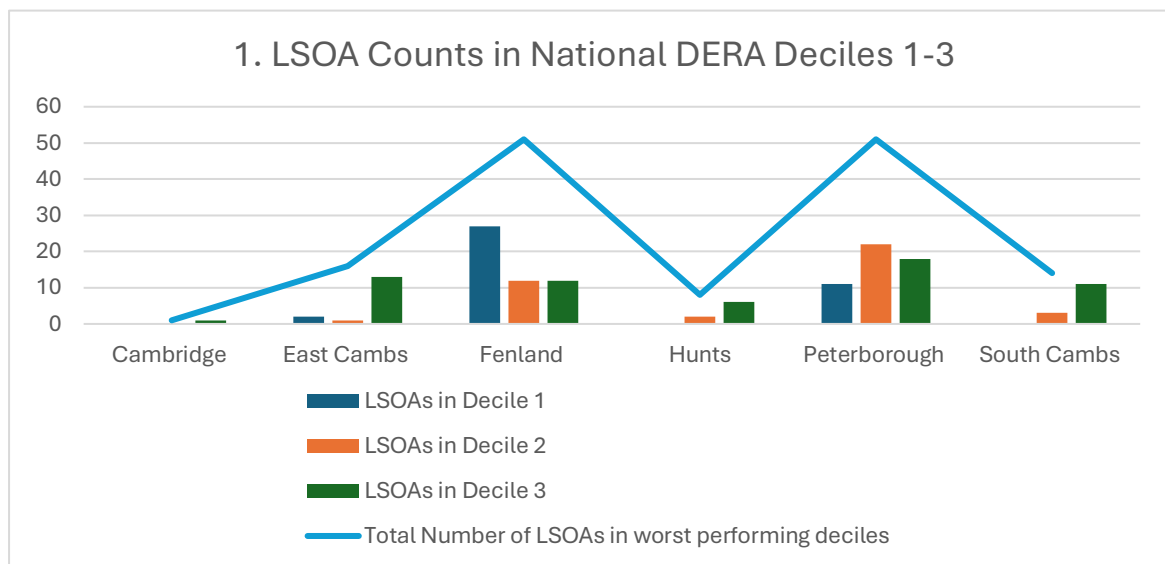
Note on limitations: DERA measures risks of digital exclusion using proxy data, rather than lived experience. Some drivers e.g. language proficiency, housing churn, are proxies rather than direct measures.

2. Key findings for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

- **Fenland and Peterborough are the most at-risk districts for digital exclusion.** Fenland has the highest number of LSOAs in the most severe risk category (Decile 1), indicating deep, structural exclusion, while Peterborough shows the greatest concentration in Decile 2 and a broader spread across Deciles 1–3, reflecting more widespread but varied forms of exclusion.
- **Fenland represents the most acute and concentrated form of digital exclusion in the region.** A large share of its neighbourhoods fall into the highest risk categories (92% of LSOAs in the worst 3 performing national deciles), suggesting persistent, multi-factor challenges linked to skills, affordability and access across both urban centres and rural areas.
- **Peterborough shows high overall levels of digital exclusion, but with greater variation in intensity.** Risk is distributed across multiple deciles and neighbourhood types, indicating that different forms of exclusion coexist within the same district, rather than one uniformly severe pattern.
- **A wider group of districts experience moderate levels of risk rather than acute exclusion.** Decile 3 includes a broader mix of areas, with East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and other districts contributing significant numbers of LSOAs, pointing to pockets of emerging or lower-intensity digital exclusion.
- **Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire stand out as relatively low risk overall.** Both have very few LSOAs in the highest risk categories, suggesting that digital exclusion is less widespread, though still present at a neighbourhood level in certain locations.
- **In more affluent rural districts, digital exclusion is present but less widespread and more localised.** East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire show pockets of risk rather than large clusters, with exclusion typically linked to infrastructure and demographics rather than deprivation.

3. Inter-District Comparisons

This graph shows the sum of LSOAs from each district that appear in the three worst performing national deciles for digital exclusion risk.

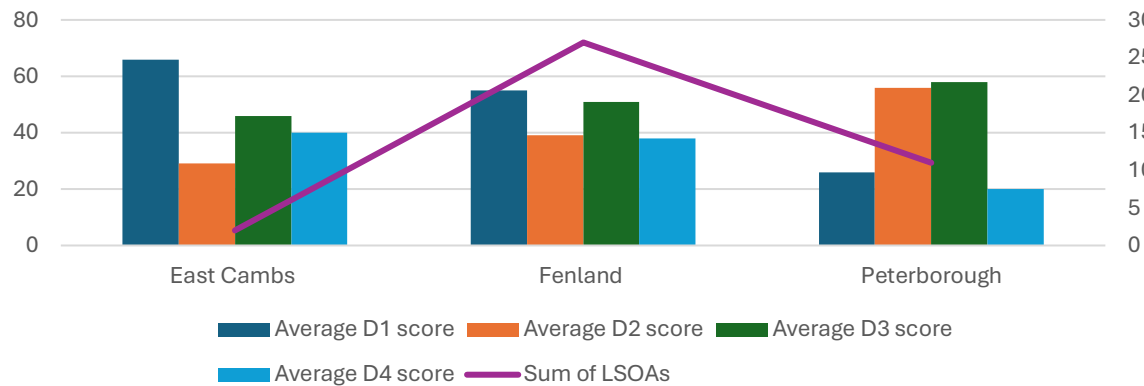


Note that averages mask district level variation.

Key insights:

- Digital exclusion is geographically uneven. Fenland and Peterborough are the worst-performing districts.
- In Fenland a substantial portion of neighbourhoods fall into the worst decile, whereas in Peterborough risk is broader and more varied.

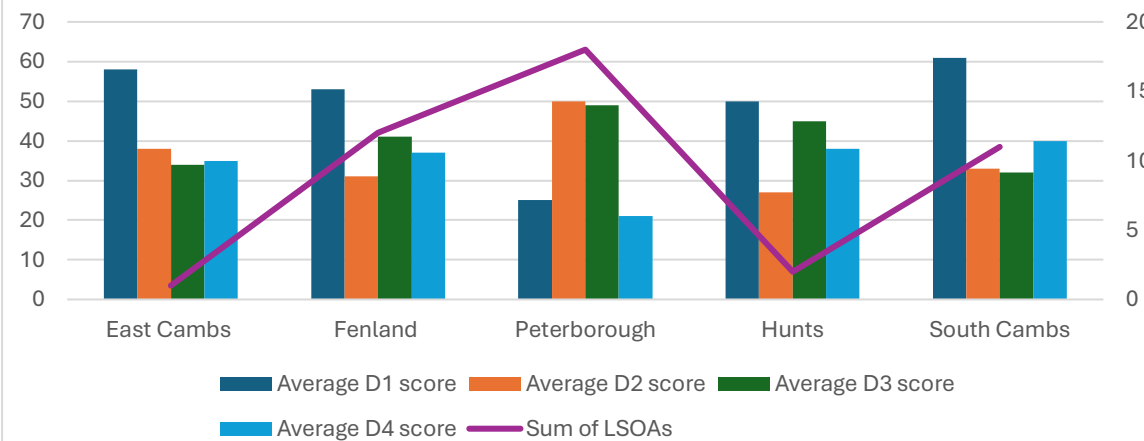
2. Average D Scores per District in National Decile 1



This graph shows the distribution of domain scores across the districts that contain LSOAs in national decile 1 (The worst performing decile).

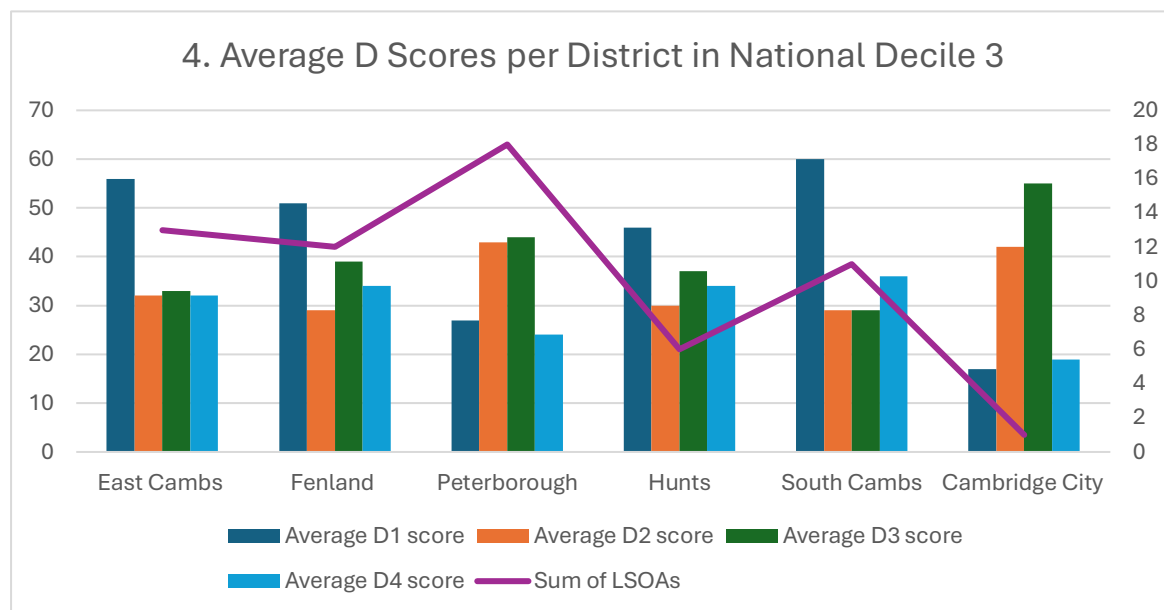
Note that averages mask district level variation.

3. Average D Scores per District in National Decile 2



This graph shows the distribution of domain scores across the districts that contain LSOAs in national decile 2 (The second worst performing decile).

Note that averages mask district level variation.



This graph shows the distribution of domain scores across the districts that contain LSOAs in national decile 3 (The third worst performing decile).

Note that averages mask district level variation.

Key insights:

- Similar levels of risk (i.e. Decile 1) can be driven by combinations of different factors across D1-4.
- Affordability and skills averages are greater, more intense drivers in Peterborough than they are in Fenland, where risk is driven relatively evenly across multiple domains.
- In East Cambridgeshire, there are very few LSOAs in Decile 1 – but those that do are driven by infrastructure related issues, along with skills and some trust or motivation issues.
- In South Cambs we see the most significant infrastructure related risk drivers, those these aren't necessarily frequent.

4. Intra-District Comparisons

District	Overall risk profile	At risk areas (Highest to lowest)	Specific challenges	What this suggests the area needs
Fenland	The deepest and most widespread digital exclusion in the region, with the highest concentration of LSOAs in decile 1. Risk is high across all 4 domains; it affects entire towns and wide rural belts, rather than isolated pockets.	Wisbech (Town centre, surrounding estates and peripheral rural belt)	Skills (D3) and affordability (D2) are the primary drivers. Led by high levels of low qualifications, language barriers, LT health conditions and deprivation. Access (D1) is also consistently high.	- Sustainable long-term support - Digital skills programmes - Device provision and data support - ESOL linked digital skills - Wraparound support through trusted community providers
		March (concentrated within the town)	Access (D1) is high, suggesting strong structural issues. Skills (D3) is less of an issue than in Wisbech. Affordability (D2) is mixed, but a lesser factor. Motivation and trust (D4) is more visible here - suggesting older populations and confidence barriers.	- Connectivity improvements - Confidence building especially for older residents - Community based digital support, light-touch skills compared to Wisbech
		Parson Drove	Access (D1) is the primary driver, consistently high across LSOAs. Affordability (D2) and skills (D3) are less dominant factors. Motivation and trust (D4) is a secondary factor in some areas, where populations are older and more isolated.	- Connectivity solutions and subsidies first - Local access points - Basic digital confidence support - Targeted support for older age residents
		Leverington		
		Elm		
		Other dispersed rural villages		

Peterborough	One of the two highest risk areas in the region. A large number of LSOAs in national deciles 1-3. Risk here is concentrated in dense urban clusters, with distinct neighbourhood types experiencing different forms of exclusion.	Inner-urban clusters in Peterborough Central, North, East and West	Highest risk areas in Peterborough are clustered in areas of urban deprivation. Affordability (D2) is one of the strongest drivers, with exclusion linked to economic hardship in high-risk areas. The higher-risk suburban areas are led by urban deprivation, like the inner-city, with some language barriers driving risk. In Orton, Stanground and Werrington these scores are moderate but less extreme, driven more so by affordability pressures.	- Integrated affordability support (devices, data, connectivity costs) - Intensive digital skills programmes linked to employment, benefits access, essential service - Language-specific provision embedded in community organisations - Ongoing support, not just training
		Paston and Walton		- As above - With family-focused / household-based support - Schools and community hub partnerships
		Ravensthorpe		- Affordability support (lighter touch) - Practical digital skills and targeted family support - More preventative work than the above
		Dogsthorpe		
		Werrington	Flexible, targeted provision based on light affordability support, community-based skills offers.	
		Orton Longueville and Waterville		
		Stanground		
		Park / Fletton		

East Cambridgeshire	Overall digital exclusion is low, with a small number of distinct exceptions.	Ely North	An urban pocket of risk where access issues (D1) are high, skills and motivation (D3, D4) is moderate, and skills (D2) is a lesser risk.	• Targeted connectivity improvements • Neighbourhood specific support offer
	Risk is dispersed and mainly led by infrastructure issues. There's an isolated urban pocket of exclusion in Ely suggesting a hyperlocal issue, rather than risk being widespread across the town.	Littleport	In rural areas risk is low intensity but persistent around access and aging population indicators. Deprivation remains minimal. Led by isolated, smaller rural access issues.	• Connectivity solutions and mobile data support - Infrastructure first • Basic digital skills and confidence programmes • Targeted older persons skills and confidence work
	Generally, deprivation is low. Aging populations elevate scores in some areas.	Rural villages including Stretham, and those near the Littleport / Ely corridor		

Huntingdonshire	Relatively few high-risk LSOAs, but those that exist are clearly clustered around certain estates, rather than entire towns or rural areas. These LSOAs show signs of economic and skills-based exclusion.	Huntingdon East	Affordability (D2) and skills (D3) are co-primary drivers. High-risk LSOAs scores are led by deprivation proxies, lower qualification levels and disability indicators. D4 is a consistent secondary factor elevated where there are older populations - this compounds D2 and D3 where it is already high. Access issues exist, but are not a main issue.	• Affordability interventions • Skills programmes focused on employment, health and benefits and services • Estate based delivery models
		Specific estates in St Neots		
		Ramsey	Risk is led by affordability pressures and skills gaps (D2, D3).	• Some connectivity support • Older person digital confidence support • Mobile / outreach provision rather than fixed hubs
		Great Staughton	Rural Huntingdonshire has present but low level access issues, and older populations driving D4 risk. Deprivation is generally low.	

Cambridge City	Largely digitally included across the district, with very few LSOAs in the worst national deciles. Overall averages tend to mask neighbourhood level digital exclusion.	Abbey	Very strong skills (D3) signals and moderate affordability signals (D2) - Abbey is the most structurally deprived in Cambridge City, led by low qualification levels, language barriers and income deprivation.	• Intensive skills programmes focused on education and language support • Device and affordability support • Integration with housing, health and social support services
	High skills issues, housing churn and cost pressures are some of the main drivers hidden by excellent infrastructure.	King's Hedges	High D3 and D2 but less extreme than Abbey, led by lower income, health and skills indicators.	• As above • Greater focus on family and household focused support
	Elevated D4 scores tend to be driven by fraud exposure proxies, rather than older populations. It's not a key driver on its own.	Petersfield	D3 proxies are high here, but affordability issues (D3) is less of an issue than other wards. Influenced by population churn, private renting, students, migrants etc. rather than solely deprivation.	• Flexible drop-in digital support for high churn populations • Short form skills support • Less focus on deprivation, more on accessing systems and services
		Parts of Cherry Hinton and Romsey	Moderate D2 and D3 scores but less extreme in Cherry Hinton. In Romsey, higher risk LSOAs are driven by language and education related proxies, deprivation is not as much of an issue here.	• Targeted skills and language support • Community led for diverse populations

South Cambridgeshire	Largely digitally included, with small high-risk pockets driven by infrastructure weaknesses, rather than deprivation. Older populations amplify risk in certain areas. Generally, there's only 1 or 2 LSOAs with elevated risk per ward, if at all.	Cottenham	Pockets of elevated risk are driven by infrastructure and access issues rather than deprivation. These LSOAs have poorer fixed and mobile coverage scores. Affordability and economic pressure is secondary, there are very few higher pressure areas but no widespread issues.	• Prioritise connectivity improvements • Mobile data and alternative connectivity support • Confidence based support for older residents • Outreach based rather than just fixed provision
		Gamlingay		
		Linton	D3 and D4 are typical, elevated in some areas with older populations - such as the rural isolated villages.	

5. Support available already

District	At risk areas (High to lower)	Support available and noticeable gaps
Fenland	Wisbech (Town centre, surrounding estates and peripheral rural belt)	Fenland Youth Work Network Digital Hubs - Devices, skills and support for young people Ferry Project Digital Hub - Support for those in sheltered housing Wisbech Library (Loanable devices, databank, Tea and Tablets weekly drop in) Gaps: Support outside of the town centre; Device and data support; work targeted towards older aged adults
	March (concentrated within the town)	Fenland Youth Work Network Digital Hubs REMO Eco Digital Hub March Community Living Room - Support for older persons through CambsACRE March Library (Loanable devices, databank, fortnightly Cambridge Online support) Gaps: Connectivity
	Parson Drove	Fenland Youth Work Network Digital Hub Gaps: Support for working age and older adults; connectivity solutions
	Leverington	No support available here
	Elm	No support available here
	Other dispersed rural villages	Sparse or no support available here

Peterborough	Inner-urban clusters in Peterborough Central, North, East and West	Extensive network of Digital Hubs within the town centre, many embedded into family centres, community groups, youth focused provision, ESOL classes 2 libraries in the centre, each offering LendIT devices and staffed support. Peterborough College device donations for students (discrete pilot) Gaps: Greater focus on integrated affordability support (device donations, data, connectivity costs)
	Paston and Walton	Barnados Digital Hub (Family focus to open soon) Gaps: Further partnerships with schools
	Ravensthorpe	PARCA support delivered by Cambridge Online Dementia Resource Centre Digital Hub GLADCA Digital Hub
	Dogsthorpe	Dogsthorpe Library Woodfield Park Digital Hub (Family Action)
	Werrington	Werrington Library with volunteer led digital support upon request
	Orton Longueville and Waterville	Orton Library Digital Hub launching later this year (not yet public as of June 26)
	Stanground	No support available
	Park / Fletton	Woodston Library, also supported by Good Neighbours Rural Project

East Cambridgeshire	Ely North	Ely Library No support in Ely North; Connectivity improvements needed
	Littleport	Littleport Library Connectivity improvements needed
	Rural villages including Stretham, and those near the Littleport / Ely corridor	Little Downham Community Managed Library Gaps: Connectivity improvements; targeted support for older persons skills and confidence
Huntingdonshire	Huntingdon East	Huntingdon Conygear Centre - weekly Cambridge Online Support (North East) Huntingdon Library (central) Gaps: Support for skills and affordability embedded into employment, health and services
	Specific estates in St Neots	St Neots Library Citizen Hub CIC
	Ramsey	Ramsey Library - Cambridge Online fortnightly support Gaps: Affordability support
	Great Staughton	No support available Gaps: Connectivity improvements; mobile / outreach provision, older persons support

Cambridge City	Abbey	No support available – priority area
	King's Hedges	Meadows Centre - Cambridge Online and Meadows Child and Family Wing delivering support Church of the Good Shepherd - Cambridge Online weekly support Arbury Court Library
	Petersfield	YMCA Queen Anne House Digital Hub Cambridge Central Library within walking distance Gaps: Targeted short form support focused on accessing services (for adults)
	Parts of Cherry Hinton and Romsey	Romsey Mill Youth Digital Hub Edge Café - weekly support with Cambridge Online The C3 Centre - bimonthly support from Cambridge Online Cherry Hinton Library Gaps: Targeted skills and language support for diverse populations
South Cambridgeshire	Cottenham	Cottenham Library Gaps: Connectivity improvements, confidence support for older residents, mobile / outreach based
	Gamlingay	Gamlingay Community Managed Library Gaps: Connectivity improvements, confidence support for older residents, mobile / outreach based
	Linton	Hope Against Poverty Digital Hub at the Sheltered Housing Communal Building Linton Library
	Other isolated rural villages around the western edge of Cambridge, and in the south east.	Mixture of libraries Clusters of mobile digital hub locations run by Fitness Rush, CambsACRE and Hope Against Poverty CIC