East Cambridgeshire Digital Connectivity Overview – August 2023







Broadband

Fibre broadband coverage in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is above the national average and ahead of Government targets

In East Cambridgeshire:

- 98% of premises can access partial/full fibre broadband with download speeds >24Mbps
- > 79% can access gigabit capable broadband with download speeds of at least 1000Mbps (1Gb)

Gigabit capable fibre broadband coverage is increasing at pace through direct government intervention and commercial deployment towards the target of 85% by 2025

- A number of commercial providers have announced plans to rollout gigabit capable fibre broadband in East Cambridgeshire from 2022 including: Cambridge Fibre, County Broadband, Gigaclear, and Openreach, with more expected
- → View our <u>active suppliers list</u> for more information
- Virgin Media's cable network will be upgraded to full fibre over the next two years
- <u>Project Gigabit</u> is combining government funding with commercial investment to extend gigabit capable fibre coverage to fill the gaps
- Gigabit Vouchers and top ups may be available to cover the cost of installing broadband for eligible groups of rural premises that are not in commercial plans or covered by Project Gigabit
- → View our <u>broadband postcode checker</u> and check eligibility for Gigabit Vouchers

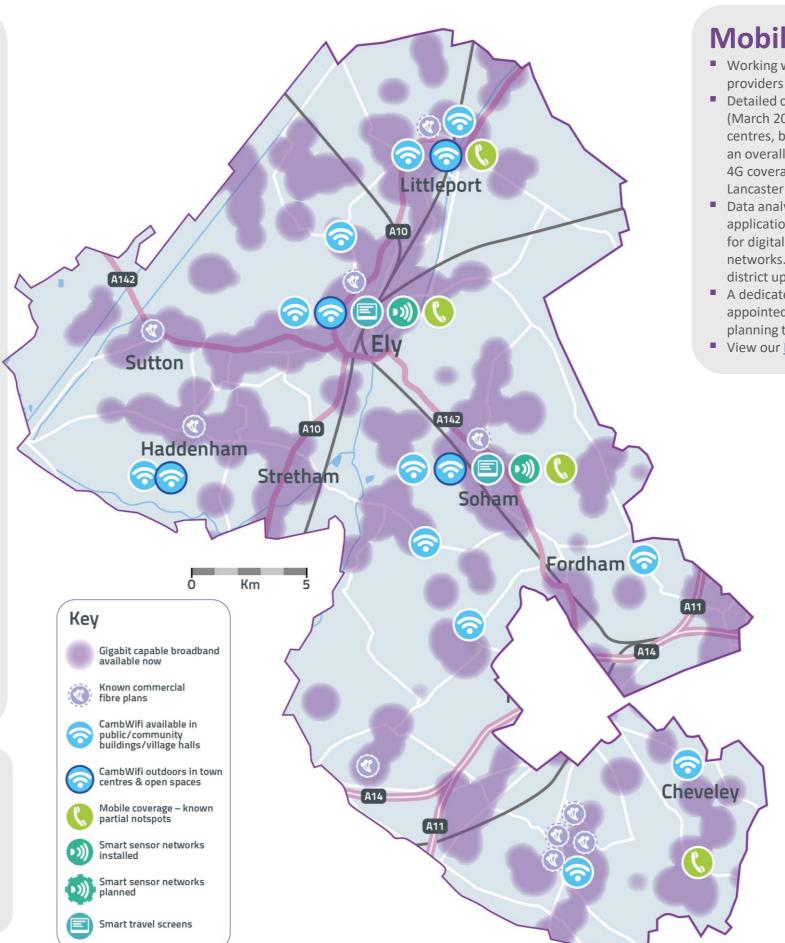
Work is underway to improve broadband coverage and speeds for social housing, matching the 85% target for market housing by 2025, by liaising with leading housing providers, government and telecoms networks

Public Access Wifi

CambWifi is widely available in public and community buildings, libraries, leisure centres, park & ride sites, and council offices

CambWifi has also been extended to Ely city, Littleport and Soham town centres and installed in 7 village halls through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme.

→ View our <u>CambWifi map and postcode checker</u>



Mobile coverage

- Working with local authorities, leading businesses and network providers to improve mobile coverage and capacity
- Detailed coverage testing surveys (March 2023) of 'partial notspots' in market town centres, business parks, major roads and train stations shows an overall improvement of 2% in combined network 4G coverage. However, variable coverage in Ely town centre, Lancaster Business Park, Littleport and Soham
- Data analysis of the increasing volume of planning applications/notices for new/upgraded 4G/5G masts required for digital connectivity for rural areas, highways and urban networks. There have been 4 applications/notices covering the district up to April 2023 of which 2 were refused
- A dedicated digital connectivity planning officer has been appointed to proactively engage with network providers, planning teams and local communities
- View our Mobile Coverage Factsheets

Smart technology

- Real time travel and information screens installed in Ely Library and Soham Co-op
- Pocket SmartPanel app offers real time bus and train information via smart phones
- → View our Smart Journey Planning pages
- LoRa sensor networks in place at Ely Cathedral and Soham Village College allowing the collation of environmental and transport data

Digital plans

- East Cambs Local Plan highlights the importance of Digital Connectivity and Smart technology to support business and communities Soham Town Masterplan 2020 includes a vision for improved digital and mobile connectivity
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough <u>Digital</u> <u>Connectivity Strategy (2021-2025)</u>

Business Support

 13 East Cambs businesses have benefited from the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Business Grants scheme funded by CPCA and EU