Greater Cambridge Digital Connectivity Overview - August 2023

Broadband

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

In South Cambridgeshire:
- >98% of premises can access partial/full fibre broadband with download speeds >24Mbps
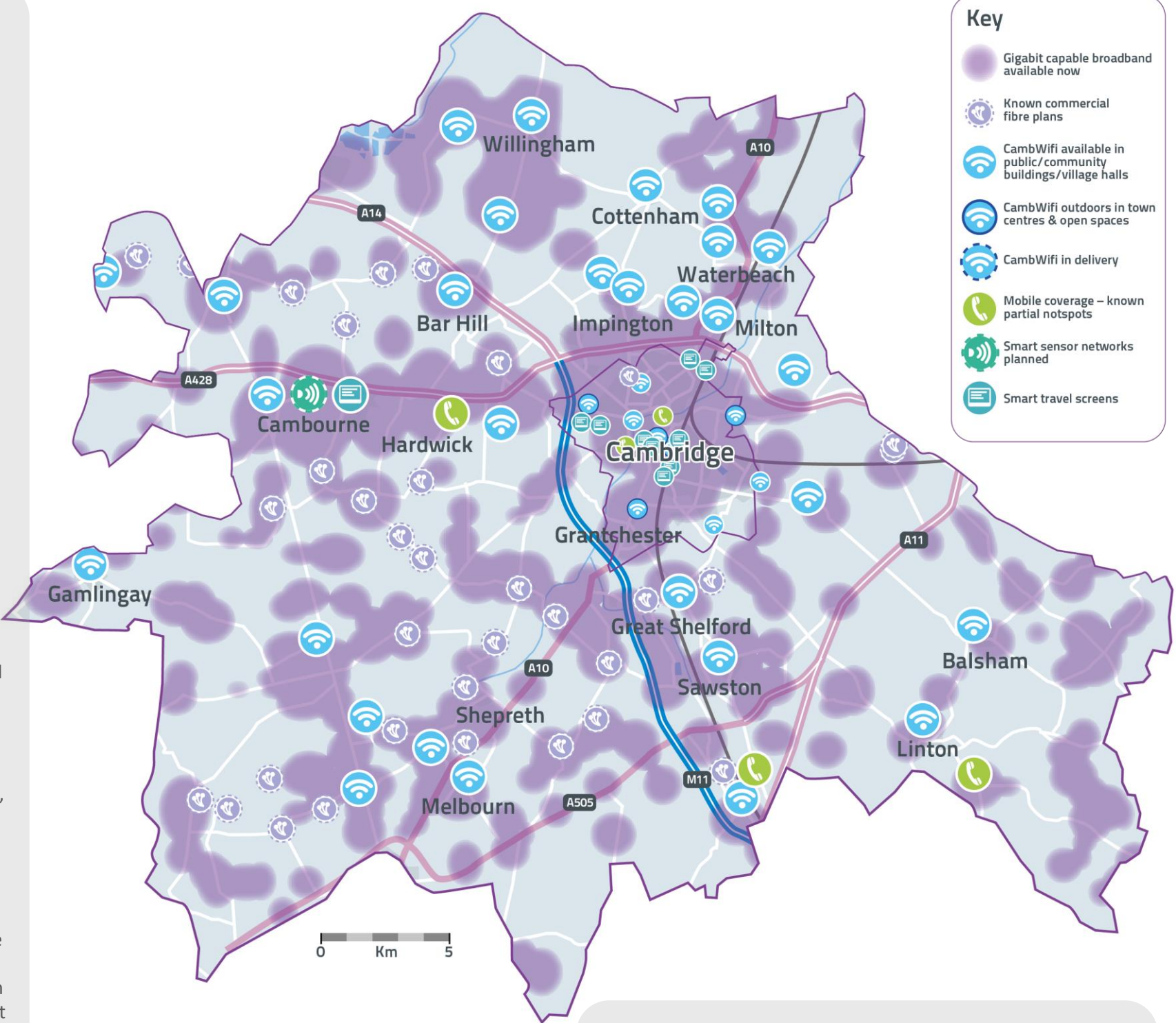- > 77% can access gigabit capable broadband with download speeds of at least 1000Mbps (1Gb)

In Cambridge:
- 99% of premises can access partial/full fibre broadband with download speeds >24Mbps
- > 92% 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 Government target of 85% by 2025.

- Project Gigabit is combining government funding with commercial investment to extend gigabit capable fibre coverage to fill the gaps
- A number of commercial providers have announced plans to rollout gigabit capable fibre broadband from 2022 including: Cambridge Fibre, CityFibre, County Broadband, and Openreach, with more to be confirmed
- →View our active suppliers list for more information
- Virgin Media's cable network will be upgraded to full fibre over the next two years
- 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 broadband postcode checker 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 and telecoms networks.

Business Support

- 26 South Cambridgeshire businesses and 29 Cambridge businesses have benefited from the Connecting Cambridgeshire Digital Business Grants scheme funded by CPCA and EU

Key
- Gigabit capable broadband available now
- Known commercial fibre plans
- CambWifi available in public/community buildings/village halls
- CambWifi outdoors in town centres & open spaces
- CambWifi in delivery
- Mobile coverage – known partial notspots
- Smart sensor networks planned
- Smart travel screens

Public Access Wifi

CambWifi is widely available in public and community buildings, libraries, leisure centres, park & ride sites, and council offices. The free to use, secure network has also been installed in 7 village halls in South Cambs through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme. Public access Wifi is available in the market square and green spaces in Cambridge city centre through the University of Cambridge, with plans to extend CambWifi to more sites under the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme
→View our CambWifi map and postcode checker

Mobile coverage

- Working with local authorities, leading businesses and network providers to improve mobile coverage and capacity including commissioning local surveys
- 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, and in key area including Cambridge Genome Campus
- 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. Total 184 applications/notices covering the area up to April 2023 of which 52 were refused
- A dedicated digital connectivity planning officer has been appointed to proactively engage with network providers, planning teams and local communities
- A Mobile Coverage Seminar was held in June 2022 View the summary in our Mobile Coverage Factsheets

Smart technology

- Real time travel and information screens installed in libraries and offices including the Guildhall, Mandela House, South Cambs Hall, University of Cambridge, and business sites including Cambridge Network and Astra Zeneca
- Pocket SmartPanel app offers real time bus and train info via smart phones
View our Smart Journey Planning pages
- LoRa sensor networks in place and being considered in Cambourne allowing the public to collect data
- Sites for flooding sensors identified

Local plans

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018) Policy TI/10 – highlighted the importance of Broadband as a key infrastructure element for the district. Following consultation, this will be replaced by the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, including a Digital Infrastructure Policy to ensure the delivery of high quality gigabit capable digital connectivity across South Cambs and Cambridge City.