# Cambridge Digital Connectivity Overview - March 2024







#### **Broadband**

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

#### In Cambridge:

- 99% of premises can access partial/full fibre broadband with download speeds >24Mbps\*
- 94% 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 Cambridge in 2024 including: CityFibre and Openreach, with more expected
- View our <u>active suppliers list</u> for more info
- Virgin Media's cable network is being upgraded to full fibre
- Project Gigabit is combining government funding with commercial investment from CityFibre 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 [this scheme is due to be re-opened 2024]
- 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, government and telecoms networks

## **Smart technology**

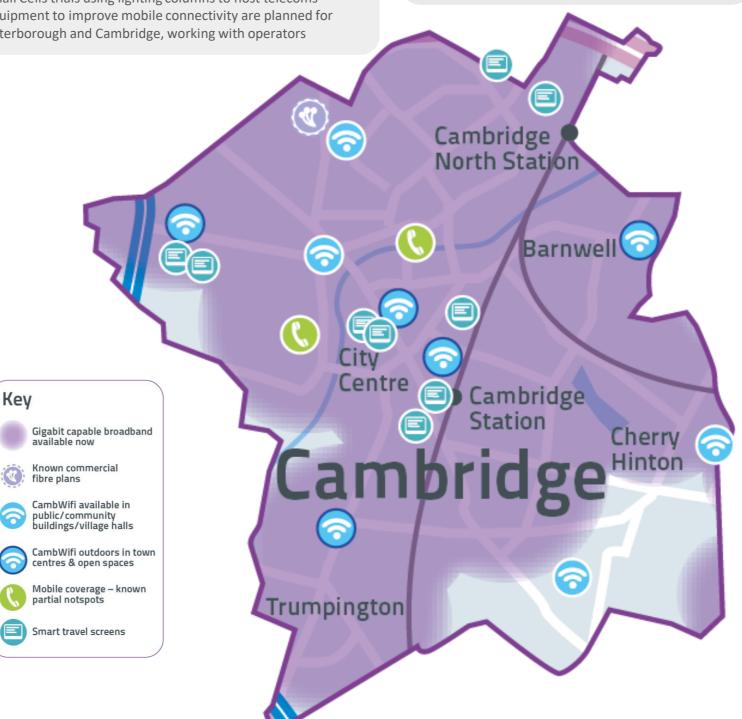
- Real time travel and information screens have been installed in libraries and public places including the Guildhall, Mandela House, Cambridge Station, plus business sites including Cambridge Network and Astra Zeneca
- Pocket SmartPanel app offers real time bus and train info via smart phones. View our Smart Journey Planning pages
- LoRa sensor networks are in place allowing the public to collect data on air quality etc
- Small Cells trials using lighting columns to host telecoms equipment to improve mobile connectivity are planned for Peterborough and Cambridge, working with operators

#### **Public Access Wifi**

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

CambWifi has also been provided in the market square and green spaces in Cambridge city centre through the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme, in conjunction with the University of Cambridge.

➤ 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 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.
- There have been 184 applications/notices covering the Greater Cambridge area to April 2023, with 52 refused
- Reform of planning laws allows 4G/5G masts of greater height and size to be upgraded or installed within permitted development rights subject to prior approval
- A dedicated digital connectivity planning officer has been appointed to proactively engage with network providers, planning teams and local
- View our Mobile Coverage Factsheets

### **Local plans**

- The Greater Cambridge Local Plan, includes a Digital Infrastructure Policy to ensure the delivery of high-quality gigabit-capable digital connectivity across South Cambs and Cambridge City
- The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough <u>Digital</u> Connectivity Strategy (2021-2025) highlights the importance of Digital Connectivity and Smart technology to support business and communities

### **Business Support**

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