connecting CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A quarterly update designed to keep you up-to-speed with our work and links to further information.

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.

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.

Broadband

Commercial fibre deployment continues at pace, closely monitored by the Connecting Cambridgeshire team. Project Gigabit's delivery phase 1 (of 4) is in build, with the first connected premises going live in July 2024. And Openreach's broadband upgrade plans for Cambridgeshire were announced at the end of May, meaning full fibre broadband is heading to a further 16 Cambridgeshire towns and villages, as part of a huge upgrade. The areas are: Burwell, Chatteris, Crafts Hill (Bar Hill) Cheveley, Fowlmere, Harston, Kimbolton, Melbourn, Newton, Papworth St Agnes, Parson Drove, Cambridge Science Park, Steeple Morden, Sawston, Swavesey and West Wratting.

Guidance
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme information
Updated 7 June 2024

We're continuing discussions with BDUK about un-pausing the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme within Cambridgeshire and will keep Members updated when we know more. Good news is that BDUK are considering a complementary voucher scheme for urban premises to help address the not-spots in urban areas often caused by complex and expensive civils/connection costs. We don't know a timescale for this yet but it's likely to be next year.
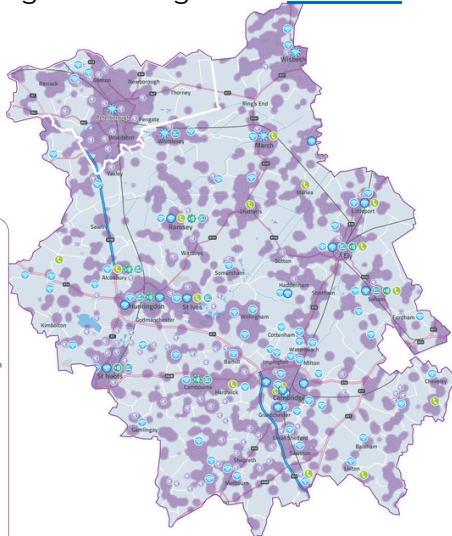
Mobile coverage improvements
We have had some contact from members regarding mobile coverage issues. We are discussing these with the Mobile operators but also with a shared infrastructure provider who is planning to install some masts that can be shared by all Mobile operators to improve coverage in the areas highlighted by the mobile coverage survey.

Members Update

District Digital Overviews

Connecting Cambridgeshire works closely with city and district councils to keep Members and officers updated on the progress of the digital infrastructure strategy and any digital connectivity issues for their area.

District Digital Overviews 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.

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 installed
- Smart sensor networks planned
- Smart travel screens

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Digital Inclusion Delivery Plan launched to combat digital exclusion

On 30 May Connecting Cambridgeshire unveiled the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Digital Inclusion Delivery Plan 2024/2025. This ambitious plan addresses critical barriers to digital inclusion and is a crucial step towards bridging the digital divide in our communities.

Through collaboration and support from partners like the Good Things Foundation, SustainableTech4Good, Healthwatch Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service, Cambridgeshire Skills, the Chamber of Commerce, CCC's Libraries service and the Care Together team, we're committed to ensuring all residents have the access, skills, and confidence to benefit from digital connectivity and thrive in a digital world.

> **Digital Inclusion Delivery Plan launch event**

Digital drop-in events

We've started a programme of digital drop-in events, with the latest one being carried out at Teversham Community Hub in May. These events further cement our partnership approach to engagement, with communities and libraries colleagues. Raising further awareness of the digital support available to residents, and involving them in the development of relevant, robust support. Contact our Digital Inclusion Lead, Will Plant to organise one for your area: Will.Plant@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

5G innovation project

The Cambridgeshire Open RAN Ecosystem (CORE) project 5G network deployment is progressing well - with an indoor deployment for the Cambridge Corn Exchange completed in early July. This will now allow initial network testing to begin. Some Augmented Reality (AR) experience development options have also been agreed with Cambridge City Council and work is beginning to develop the content and design the venue to host the Experience.