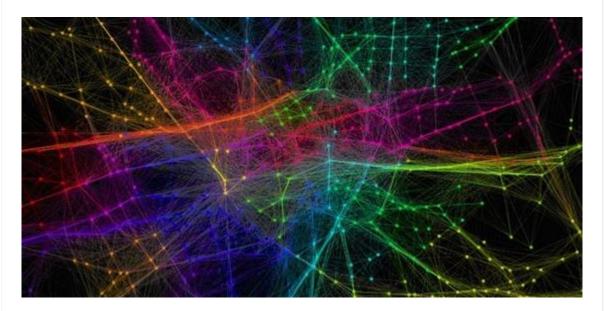# MAYOR OF LONDON

The Connected London team brings you updates on digital connectivity projects and policy in London. Get in touch by emailing the team on Connected@London.gov.uk if you have any questions or if you would like to be featured

JUNE UPDATE

CONNECTED LONDON TEAM UPDATE

The Connected London team have recently refreshed our connectivity webpages on London.gov.uk to provide more up to information for our stakeholders. Using data from Ofcom's Connected Nations we have developed a Connected London map which displays fixed line availability across London. The new map allows for data to be extractable in an effort to address duplication of borough resource time spent creating maps and a single methodology for analysing the data across London. Coverage information is available at London wide, borough, ward, and postcode level.

The draft London Plan includes the strongest policy for digital connectivity ever, calling for full fibre for all new developments and mobile availability. Read the draft policy text on the Connected London webpages here. The policies have passed the Examination in Public stage with no objections. The Connected London team are now working with GLA planners to understand what evidence and guidance will need to be provided to sit alongside the policy which articulates the requirements in a clear format for both housing developers, fibre

providers and mobile operators.

Standardised mobile agreement – Working with the British Standards Institute, industry and boroughs, the Mayor is developing a standardised agreement for mobile operators and landlords in order to speed up the legal process for access arrangements for rooftop and greenfield sites. The draft document went out for [public consultation](#) which closed in March. There have been ongoing steering group meetings with key stakeholders to ensure the agreement is robust and fit for purpose. The template will be available from early August as we near the process of completing this document.

techUK workshop – On 11 June GLA and Tech UK brought industry and local authorities together to discuss developing a ['Developing a London-wide approach to digital connectivity'](#). Attendees worked together to understand each other's challenges and talk about potential solutions to common issues. A summary of key principles will be made available online.

Connected London Forum – On 11 June fibre and mobile network operators met in City Hall with Theo Blackwell, Chief Digital Officer at the Connected London Provider Forum to provide an update on the Connected London work programme, key projects across the GLA, and discuss challenges and best practice for rolling out infrastructure across London.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

West London – 29th April 2019

Hosted by Harrow council in their Civic Centre, we assembled with west London boroughs for the quarterly forum to share best practice and guidance and to hear from boroughs how their work programmes for improving digital connectivity are progressing. We learnt that Harrow has developed a digital strategy underpinned by stimulating an expansion of digital infrastructure across the Borough. They have a desire to increase ducting throughout the borough and are sounding out this option with internal teams with a view to undertaking a business case assessment soon. They have met with fibre providers to discuss potential fibre investment in the borough.

Hillingdon are considering how to develop its digital approach and are seeking political guidance. They too have met with fibre providers to discuss potential future investment in the borough, with a particular interest for investment in rural and underserved parts of the borough as well as the more densely populated areas.

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) also attended and stated their desire to increase fibre and mobile connectivity across the area, using their smart and digital

strategy as the guiding principles for the future vision.

North East London – 30th April 2019

Hosted in Newham council in their dockside office, we met with north east boroughs in the usual workshop format. Newham and Havering share IT services but have separate digital connectivity ambitions for their respective boroughs. Newham have focused on implementing dark fibre and ducting across the borough and would like to generate revenue from this project. Havering's focus has been on regeneration particularly to the business district area with a view that improved fibre connectivity with attract more businesses to the borough. There are significant housing projects undergoing and fibre providers are being communicated with to ensure new builds are full fibre ready.

South Central London – 7th May 2019

Held in Lewisham's Town Hall, we met with south central London boroughs. Lewisham Homes are meeting with fibre providers to increase fibre connectivity to their housing stock and discussing with neighbouring boroughs about joining funds and improving the network across South London as a whole, as part of their Smart Cities agenda.

Lewisham aim to improve their digital inclusion work programme but are constrained by . financial cuts. In the past they've run a number of initiatives to improve digital skills through digital zones in partnership with high street shops/businesses, such as Lloyds bank staff helping residents' transition to online banking, or Argos and EE offered training for sold tech products. Another initiative to improve digital skills for residents of the borough, was a volunteering scheme that deployed over 100 digital champions. Recruited by Go ON UK, across multiple venues to help consumers improved their digital skills/ gain new knowledge on the go. They have also adopted paperless meetings for their cabinet members, using iPads instead of paper packs.

Lambeth have a new strategic director who aims to refresh the borough's digital strategy. Their work programme includes improving fibre across their housing stock to ensure residents have the best available broadband.

Southwark has seen full fibre deployed to a large number of their housing stock since signing master wayleaves with Community Fibre and Hyperoptic, with a view for all assets to have availability by the end of 2020. With 5G in mind, they are working with mobile providers to ensure existing infrastructure will be upgraded and further roll out to tackle underserved areas. They are also in the process of completing their digital inclusion plan in conjunction with their economic team.

Greenwich are putting forward plans and options to their cabinet members with a particular

interest in their large housing stock, vision for 5G and how this will impact adult social care, tourism and education and skills.

North Central London – 14th May 2019

Hosted by Kensington and Chelsea in their Freeman Suite, we met with north central boroughs. Last year, Westminster and K&C appointed a CIO to manage the merged shared service IT department which serves both councils. K&C is in process of adopting the standard wayleave developed by Westminster, the City and the GLA to cover all the council stock, rather than needing to sign one for each estate. This wayleave agreement will shortly be signed up to by both Hyperoptic and Community Fibre to connect to their housing stock with additional network roll out to other residential and business properties. G.Network has recently launched in the parts of the borough, providing full fibre to residents and businesses. K&C too have adopted Westminster's stance on parking bay cost reductions for providers to encourage and support infrastructure roll out.

Hackney council are meeting with fibre providers to discuss fibre roll out to housing stock and have begun a new project called Quick Winds. This project experiments the use of existing street furniture and rooftops to provide beneficial services for the public.

Westminster continue to administer their Connect Westminster voucher scheme with over 100 providers registered. So far, the project has supported over 400 small businesses get connected to Superfast connectivity. They currently have 30% of housing stock connected with full fibre, and 70% with superfast fibre, the standard wayleave has made this easier. They are working with G.network to deploy fibre across the borough with some 60 streets connected a month. This deployment is supported through the Council's parking discount scheme, coordinated street works and the Connect Westminster funding.

South London – 9th May 2019

Hosted by Merton in their Civic Centre, we met with south London boroughs in the usual workshop format. Merton are involved with the IOT platform as part of the South London Partnership activities and are in the process of creating a smart city strategy.

They have introduced digital improvements around the area – Big Belly solar bins, digital advertising, cashless parking and electric car clubs in a bid to make the borough more digital.

Kingston and Sutton share a digital strategy. They are working on their digital transformation piece and like Merton, the IOT platform is the big focus. Both boroughs are keen to fibre their housing stock and have been in discussions with fibre providers.

They have been working with their regeneration teams for improving Wi-Fi in public places including Sutton High Street.

Richmond has a digital strategy in place and are sounding out options for their funding portion of the IOT platform. Wandsworth is exploring options to developing a digital strategy.

OTHER NEWS...

DCMS GUIDANCE INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY-LED SCHEMES

DCMS have created guidance for communities hoping to improve connectivity in their local area. The guidance helps communities access and benefit from potential models, case studies, guidance and funding options relevant to local broadband projects.

Read more

RURAL GIGABIT CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMME

In May, DCMS launched a £200 million programme which will rollout gigabit-capable full fibre broadband to the most rural and remote locations across the UK. The programme will run for two years and will trial a model connecting local public sector buildings in rural areas.

Read more here and find key information here

MOBILE UK PRESS RELEASE

Mobile UK released a report urging councils to take simple steps to support the roll out of 5G. Research in the report found that fewer than a third (28 per cent) of councils' Local Plan make any reference to mobile connectivity. More than half (65 per cent) of councils did not have a councillor with specific responsibility for digital issues. Nine in 10 (87 Percent) had not audited the suitability of their land, buildings, and other infrastructure to host digital infrastructure. Three-quarters (74 per cent) had not applied for funding to improve digital connectivity.
There is urge for councils to build mobile connectivity into their strategic plans and to give equal weight to mobile as they do to broadband, including dedicated staff. Mobile UK state that opportunities to prepare for 5G should be taken now, and equal prioritisation of mobile with fixed broadband should be made.
The report also champions best practice and highlights local authorities that are already putting in steps to enable better cooperation and assisting the mobile industry

Read more

CONNECTED PLACES CATAPULT LAUNCHES 5G ACTION LEARNING NETWORK

Much excitement surrounds the launch of 5G, the technologies that use it, and how it will revolutionise how UK Plc does business. In the UK-wide environment of multiple trials and testbeds, the Connected Places Catapult is focusing its attention on what is limiting or slowing the large scale adoption of advanced connectivity across the whole of the UK

The 5G Action Learning Network is supporting places to get 5G done. This 9 month initiative will enhance capability and fluency in advanced connectivity to help local government deliver connectivity roll out plans across fibre, 4G, WiFi and IoT networks, in readiness for 5G, in-house with confidence.

Read more here