MAYOR OF LONDON

DECEMBER UPDATE

Connected London Team Update

Full Fibre Grant Funding Projects

On 24 October the Mayor announced a £10m fund from the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) for London boroughs to roll out full fibre and tackle not spots. This latest funding joins other investments of £15.4m from London Councils, and £8.5m LFFN funding from the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport (DCMS). Grant funding for fibre projects in London now equates £33.9m.

- SIP - Local London, £7.7m
- SIP - West London Alliance, £7.7m
- LFFN – Central London and OPDC, £8.5m
- SIF – Remaining south London and two central London boroughs, £10m

The Mayor has also committed to granting £1 million to sub-regional partnerships to establish embedded regional roles, developed collaboratively with the partnerships, to support borough assets teams in the roll out of full fibre and provide resource and expertise.

The GLA is working with London Councils and the sub-regional partnerships to ensure that the £1 million dedicated for regional roles delivers roles with responsibilities and work programmes that meet the borough's needs.

Connected London Full Fibre Network

TfL's Telecommunications Commercialisation Project (TCP) is progressing through the procurement process. At present, TfL are in dialogue with bidders and final bids are expected in first quarter of 2020. Invitation to Submit Final Tender (ISFT) will be issued on 7 February 2020. The concession will be awarded in summer 2020.
TfL is progressing with the Public Cellular Pilot scheduled to launch in March 2020. Customers on the eastern half of the Jubilee line between Westminster and Canning Town will get full mobile connectivity on station platforms and tunnels, except for London Bridge and Waterloo stations which we hope to add later in 2020.   At this time, we have three mobile network operators signed up for the Pilot: Vodafone, Telefonica and 3UK. The Pilot will run for 12 months.

Standardised Agreement

On 27 September the [Mayor announced](#) and [published a new template agreement](#) for mobile infrastructure. This was developed with legal representatives from landowners, including boroughs, TfL, Cabinet Office, British Property Federation, and others. City of London and

Cabinet Office have committed to using this for their sites in future. The agreement has generally been well received with many Local Authorities across the UK adopting it.

Connected London Map

The team and colleagues in the GIS team arranged a workshop with boroughs to discuss proposed improvements to the [Connected London Map](#) and hear suggestions on what other new functionality can be introduced. The agreed outcomes that GIS colleagues are working to bring to the map for January 2020 are:

1. Users will be able to create a URL links specific to the data they are viewing, these can then be shared with our users and opened at the same data point.
2. Users will be able to export specific map data to use in reports, equipped with the necessary copyright and tags.
3. Time slider tool to see the improvements in FTTP/not spots across London.

Connected London Forum

Chaired by Theo Blackwell, London's Chief Digital Officer and supported by the Connected London team, the Connected London Forum convenes twice a year with industry leaders, both fixed line and mobile providers, to hear about plans for London's digital connectivity and views on how local government and industry can work together to achieve ubiquitous gigabit-capable digital connectivity and prepare London for the rollout of 5G.

On 25 November, the team and London Plan Officers met with providers to inform them of the SI6 digital connectivity policy from the London Plan and receive feedback for the proposed planning application process and proposed notification process. Historic meeting notes can be [found here](#).

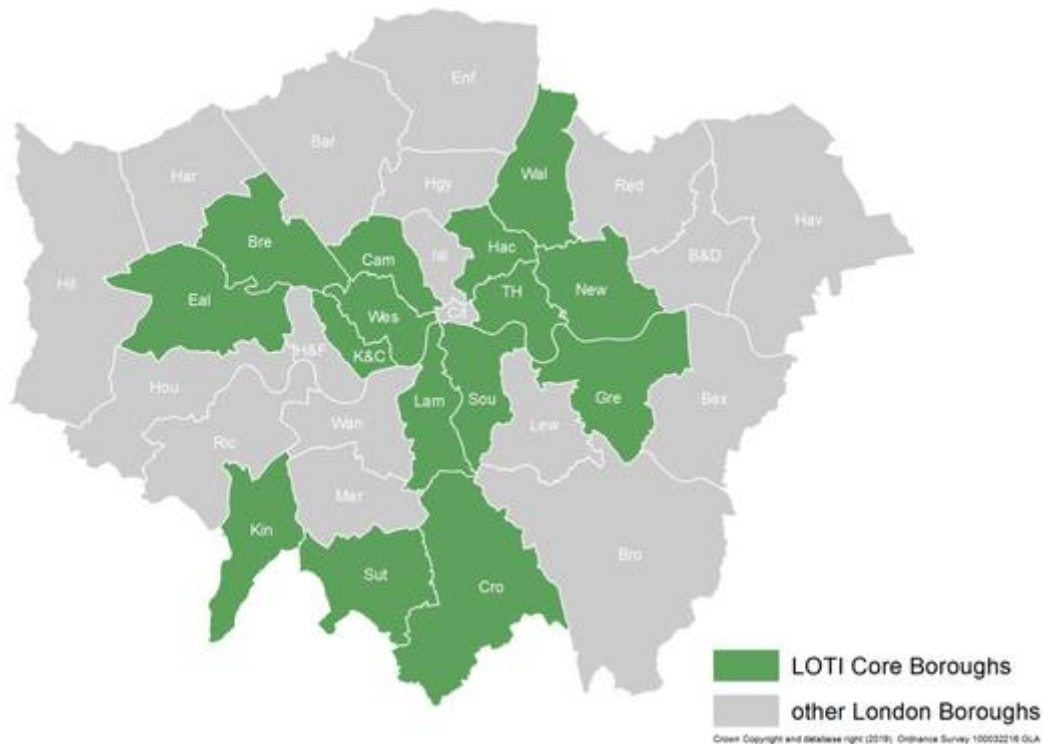**London Office for Technology and Information (LOTI)**

The London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) was created to help London boroughs work together, bringing the best of digital, technology and data to improve public services for Londoners. LOTI wants to see a future where London's public sector organisations can thrive in the digital era, achieving their best for London's residents. LOTI's mission is to deliver real-world outcomes for Londoners by making collaboration on innovative technology and data projects frictionless for our members.

LOTI and Bloomberg Associates have launched [City Tools: London](#), at [Big Data LDN](#) to spur

collaboration and drive efficiency in London's service delivery.

City Tools: London consists of a report and interactive dashboard, mapping London boroughs' technologies, contracts and IT capabilities to activate cost-savings and upskilling across London's boroughs.
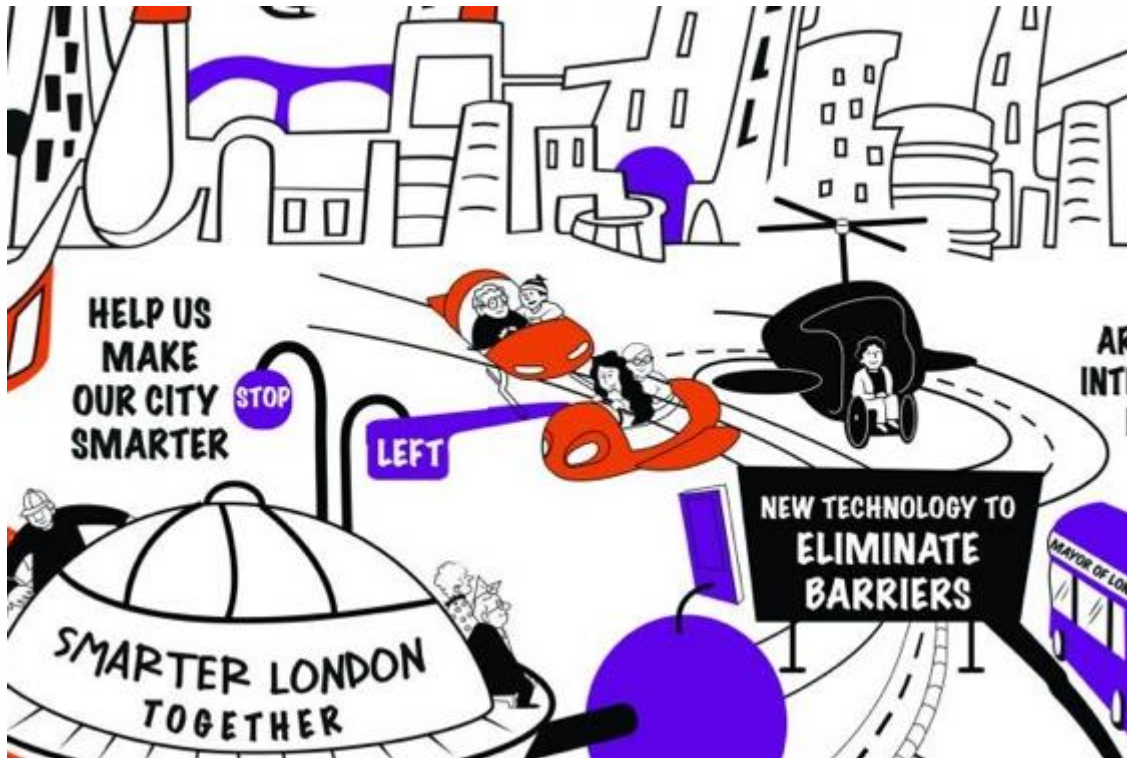
For more information about LOTI, please visit their Medium blog page and Twitter account.

Smarter London Together

Smarter London Together is the Mayor's roadmap intended to be a flexible digital masterplan for the city. It sets out how the GLA want to collaborate with the capital's boroughs and services, from TfL to the NHS. GLA also want to work more effectively with the tech community, our universities and other cities. Recent activity can be viewed on the Smarter London Together Trello board here.

In recent news, officers began a listening exercise with both GovTech Suppliers and London boroughs, aimed at gauging user need. For more information on Smarter London Together, please visit the London.gov.uk page and their Medium blog page.

London First

London First called for government, local authorities and operators to come together to make full fibre a reality across the capital. Their report, [Enhancing Digital Connectivity](#), calls for a 'step change' to make full fibre a reality across London. It calls out two key barriers at a local level, being coordination, and access and ownership. The report also states calls for the creation of a Full Fibre Taskforce for London, business rates reform and action from the Government to ensure new builds are automatically connected.

Ofcom Connected Nations Data

Following 'inaccuracies identified for one communication provider that mis-interpreted the definition of full fibre availability [1] ', Ofcom's Summer 2019 report has highlighted that FTTP coverage in London was inaccurately reported in historical reports.

Ofcom is working with this provider to restate the figures for the Spring 2019 data only, this will enable the trajectory of FTTP coverage to be mapped accurately from Spring 2019 onwards. Spring 2019 data is expected to be updated alongside the release of December's

'Connected Nations 2019' data.

[1] https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/166650/connected-nations-update-summer-2019.pdf - Page 4

Westminster's Digital Connectivity Initiatives

Westminster council has been working with broadband providers to better understand their difficulties in deploying networks in Westminster, resulting in action taken by the borough in introducing initiatives to improve deployment and connectivity. Some of the difficulties highlighted by providers include:

- The high cost of digging up streets to deploy networks
- The cost of suspending parking bays during network deployment
- Lack of funds for small businesses to upgrade their connectivity
- Issues around wayleaves and the costs associated with this
- Challenges with deploying infrastructure in a city with lots of old architecture and streets

Westminster's case study and actions to improve deployment can be found here.

Provider Update

Openreach

On 3 December the Connected London team and the Chief Digital Officer, Theo Blackwell, visited an Openreach telephone exchange in the Faraday building, Queen Victoria Street. During the visit, the team were taken on a tour of the building and saw first-hand the different equipment required for FTTP and the older copper-based network. Starting from the source of the fibre at the exchanges and ending right outside a connected building. The tour showed how the improvement of technology has affected the industry, with the exchanges decreasing in size but increasing in connection capacity, and current fibre optic cables being only a fraction of the size of the original copper cables.

The team observed how Openreach manage their network and how connections are delivered, including learning were also given a lesson on splicing fibre – even being able to take home a piece of spliced fibre as a souvenir!

Community Fibre

Community Fibre is working with London's landlords, social and private, to future proof London's properties with full fibre-optic broadband. They are now working with ten London Boroughs to make sure that the properties owned by them are future proofed with full fibre-optic internet connections. Their mission, "to bring better broadband to everyone in London." They work with their landlord partners to bring new employment opportunities, digital skills training and free gigabit connections at the community spaces in the areas they serve. During the last quarter Croydon, Sutton and Tower Hamlets have joined Wandsworth, Westminster, Southwark, Richmond, Hammersmith & Fulham, Brent and the City of London in granting permission to install new fibre optic cables at their properties. In all cases Community Fibre has used the City of London's standard wayleave template. Last year in Brent they managed to sign an agreement and start bringing full fibre to their residents in just eight weeks.

With the landlord's permission they can upgrade their properties to future proof full fibre. London's landlords can contact Community Fibre at landlords@communityfibre.co.uk to get properties included in their free roll-out programme.

Residents can also register their interest in having their property upgraded to full fibre by inputting their postcode on www.communityfibre.co.uk.

G.Network

G.Network, the London-centric full fibre provider, has been busy deploying its network across the Capital. The company has now dug past 70,000 premises, currently adding a further 10,000 premises per month, which is growing each month. Much of the works have been in the City of Westminster as well as the boroughs of Camden, Islington, Hackney and The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The company provides internet access and related services to residents and businesses alike and prides itself on the service it provides its customers. For more information, please visit their www.g.network.

Vodafone

On 24 October the Mayor launched Vodafone's London HQ 'The Speechmark' in Southwark with Vodafone's UK CEO Nick Jeffrey and Helen Lamprell, General Counsel and External Affairs Director. Vodafone have relocated their Consumer and Digital HQ and Centre of Excellence from Newbury, bringing around 1000 employees to London. Vodafone's £6.5m investment cements Bankside and the area in and around Southwark Street as one of the fastest growing centres for creative and digital expertise in London.

Conservative Party Plegde For Connectivity

The Conservative Party pledges to bring full-fibre broadband to every home and business by 2025, including setting aside £5bn to connect premises where it wouldn't be commercially viable. Read full manifesto here.

Digital Connectivity In The News

London based:

- Revealed: London's best and worst streets for broadband speeds – 4/12/19
  Data compiled by uSwitch shows the difference between broadband speeds in London, with a list of the slowest streets and fastest streets in London.

- Next-Generation Wireless Infrastructure-as-a-Service Provider Ontix Switches on Gigabit Broadband Service in London's Soho – 28/11/19
  Ontix Limited has switched on a flagship broadband service in Berwick Street Market in Soho delivering speeds up to a gigabit per second via a Fixed Wireless Access Connectivity.

- O2 Claims Fastest Free Stadium WiFi in the UK for London Stadium – 20/11/19

O2 claim to be deploying the fastest free stadium WiFi in the UK at the London stadium. The project will include an upgrade to London stadium's original fibre infrastructure, which has been in place since the 2012 Olympics.

- [LOTI unveils dashboard for improved tech governance in London](#) – 15/11/19
  LOTI has launched a toolkit and interactive dashboard to help the London boroughs collaborate and coordinate technologies, contracts, IT capabilities and improve service delivery for Londoners.

Around the UK and other:

- [Vodafone UK Grows to 667,000 fixed broadband users as 5G expands](#) – 12/11/19
  Vodafone has published the latest of their quarterly results, which shows they have added 61,000 new broadband customers in the last quarter, up from 31,000 in the previous.

- [Fibre broadband to be installed along HS1 track route](#) – 15/11/19
  Tech firm Nextgenaccess has been granted a concession allowing the installation of the broadband cables to serve local authorities and communities along the HS1 route.

- [UK sees first remote diagnostic procedure over 5G](#) – 15/11/19
  BT and Universal Hospital Birmingham have demonstrated the UK's first remote diagnostic procedure over 5G, as part of BT's claim that the technology could provide solutions for the healthcare sector.

- [450% Faster – Ookla Reveals UK 5G Mobile Broadband Speeds](#) – 19/11/19
  New data from internet speed tester Ookla has revealed new mobile broadband technology is 450% faster than the older ones, but not as much of a change with upload speeds

- [EE switch-on ultrafast 5G mobile in 14 new UK cities and towns](#) – 19/11/19
  EE have announced that their 5G network has now live in a further 14 cities/towns. As well as the cities/towns they have extended to other areas including Cardiff Castle, London's Carnaby Street and Camden Market.

- [Virgin Media UK Spend £150m to Add 220000 Premises in Scotland](#) – 25/11/19
  Virgin Media UK have issued an update on the Project Lighting expansion id their Ultrafast broadband network in Scotland, showing that they've invested an extra

£150m to reach 220,000 more premises.

- [Ireland backs a national fibre roll-out with almost €3bn of state aid](#) – 25/11/19
  National Broadband Ireland (NBI) has signed a deal with the Irish government to deliver the country's National Broadband Plan (NBP). NBI have said, "once the plan is completed 100% of the population will have access to a modern and reliable broadband network"

- [Mobile operators win key UK appeal case over building access](#) – 27/11/19
  Mobile infrastructure company Cornerstone has won an appeal case meaning that 4G/5G mobile operators can now force access to land in order to conduct a survey.

- [Greater Manchester: the UK city-region doing digital differently](#) – 2/12/19
  Article by Elise Wilson, Digital Portfolio Leader for Greater Manchester, about the Greater Manchester's digital transformation.

- [Virgin Trains trials on-board 5G Wi-Fi on UK's West Coast Mainline](#) – 6/12/19
  Virgin trains partnered with Vodafone and tech firm McLaren Applied to test super-fast on-board broadband, which will give customers Wi-Fi connections that are up to 10 times faster.

Newsletters

If you would like your update or event featured, please get in touch at connected@london.gov.uk