

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.

OCTOBER 2020 UPDATE



CONNECTED LONDON TEAM UPDATE

This year has brought some challenges due to [COVID-19](#) however the team are progressing with the different funding streams. Grant funding for the fibre projects in London equates to £33.9m, the different funding and amounts associated are given below:

- Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) - Local London, £7.7m and West London Alliance, £7.7m
- Local Full Fibre Network – Central London and OPDC, £8.5m
- Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) – Remaining south London and two central London boroughs, £10m

In addition to this the team are working with the four sub-regional partners in London to establish roles to help with digital connectivity. A grant of £1 million was committed by the Mayor to establish these roles to support the boroughs roll out of full fibre. West London Alliance have already begun recruitment for their roles and the other sub-regions are close to

finalising a grant agreement with the GLA, to release the money, and will shortly start to recruit for these posts.

CONNECTED LONDON FULL FIBRE NETWORK

TfL's Telecommunications Commercialisation Project (TCP) was progressing well but COVID-19 brought some unplanned challenges which has delayed the procurement process. The TCP Concession will now be awarded by December 2020. If you require further information on this project, please email the Connected London team.

TfL's Public Cellular Pilot launched in March 2020 and those that travel on the Jubilee line between Westminster and Canning Town can now get full mobile connectivity on the station platforms and tunnels. The four mobile network operators that signed up to the pilot are EE, Vodafone, Telefonica and Three Mobile.

CONNECTED LONDON MAP

The Connected London Map is updated three times a year to include the latest Connected Nations Coverage data. The current data is for Summer 2020.

The map has some new features, one of which is a new 'toggle area selection masking' option which allows the user to mask areas outside of their selection. This and all the other new features can be found by clicking on the 'See more' button below. This map can be used to extract key information for reports and be included within presentations.

Please email the team with any suggestions for the map.

[See more](#)



LONDON RECOVERY MISSION

DIGITAL ACCESS FOR ALL

The mission “Every Londoner to have access to connectivity, basic digital, skills and digital employment opportunities and support by 2025”

In May, the launch of the [Transition and Recovery Boards](#) was announced. The London Recovery Board and work is being jointly led by the Mayor and London Councils, and with a clear intention for this to be a co-design process with partners.

Since then work has been underway to develop plans for the recovery work. The work is taking a missions based approach. For the recovery the missions are being divided into ‘economic’ and ‘social’ recovery themes, though recognising there are natural interdependences.

A clear priority that has emerged during the initial mission design phase is one for digital access. This is sitting in the economic theme, but will have cross overs with social. Within the digital access mission include proposed projects around better data, improving infrastructure, skills training, supporting voluntary communities, and design of digital services.

There are eight missions in total and seventh one is 'Digital Access for all'. This mission aims to -

- **Develop detailed picture of digital exclusion** in London through access to high-quality granular data.
- **Identify cohorts in need of ‘minimum access package’** and pilot initiatives to provide them with devices, skills and connectivity.

service and access.

- **Ensure all Londoners with no or low digital skills receive training and support** to enable them to make effective use of their connectivity access.
- **Support job creation in connectivity infrastructure works**, through skilling Londoners and working with industry.
- **Support Londoners to develop higher-level digital skills to enter the tech sector**, particularly those underrepresented in the industry.
- **Improve digital leadership** – put people first and respect diversity when designing digital services, use data or adopt emerging technology.

A consultation was held from 7 August till 28 August 2020 via Talk London where everyone was encouraged to comment on the proposals. As well as this a series of meetings were held by the team with a range of stakeholders to gather feedback. All responses are now being analysed. More information can be found about this and the other seven missions by clicking on the 'read more' button.

[Read More](#)

BOROUGH UPDATES



West London Alliance recently lead on market engagement sessions where Ealing and other West London boroughs heard from providers about open access agreements, commercial plans and opportunities for collaboration. West London Alliance are working with providers and

WLA boroughs to put in place the agreements and strategies that will improve digital connectivity, stimulate innovation with 5G and achieve a step change in the pace of delivery.

Hounslow Council are planning to get authorisation in September/October to request approval for a master wayleave agreement and progress work on small cells. Additional resources have been brought in to assist Hounslow in taking forward their ambitions in improving digital connectivity.

Hillingdon Council are currently working on their full fibre strategy which is due to go to cabinet shortly for approval. If this strategy is approved, it will be a great leap forward for Hillingdon Council in moving digital connectivity forward.

Camden Council has recently signed a master wayleave agreement to enable more residents to be digitally connected

Westminster City Council has recently secured £1.1m of ERDF funding to run its Digital Street Markets project. The project will see the deployment of WiFi networks at all of the Council run street markets offering a secure and reliable network for all market traders. There will also be a three year programme of digital skills training for businesses that will support with enabling online trading, developing social media presences and more. Westminster are currently going out to procurement for a WiFi operator.

Southwark Council have more than 36,000 properties that are now gigabit-enabled as part of the full-fibre broadband project with Community Fibre and Hyperoptic. Both providers are in the process of providing a free life-long connection to a number of community centres, TRA halls and libraries.

Newham Council is engaging with stakeholders to understand the best way of getting a wayleave in place to roll out full fibre into social housing. The process for 5G small cell wayleaves is being considered as well. Newham have met with different boroughs to understand lessons learnt and have heard from providers on what they can offer Newham to help boost connectivity within the borough.

Lambeth Council are developing their borough digital vision and strategy, this work had commenced before COVID-19 but with issues and opportunities highlighted during the pandemic, the document will be looking as much at digital inclusion as infrastructure. There is progress with TTFP for council housing and the council will be looking to work with providers in the near future.

Brent Council's full fibre housing roll out is continuing well after a short pause to ensure onsite

work was COVID safe. Brent has put in place a Residents' Support Fund, aimed at those impacted by COVID. The Fund includes access to a Digital Inclusion package, consisting of a device; internet connection and digital skills support. The scheme is now operational.

Croydon Council has successfully become the first council in the UK to offer a non-exclusive, open access agreement. They are working in partnership with Freshwave and have installed the first 4G small cell antennae across town centre locations including Croydon University Hospital and West Valley Hospital in East Croydon. The open access, non-exclusive approach enables Croydon to work with multiple telecoms operators and all mobile networks to bring faster and better 4G coverage for the customers of Croydon. Full fibre roll out to social housing is now well underway with more than half of the sites completed. Croydon have introduced 1-1 digital inclusion training to residents within sheltered housing blocks which is progressing well. Croydon in partnership with Leeds Digital have recently secured some MHCLG (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government) funding to deliver digital skills learning sessions to residents and develop a playbook to share with other local authorities on how to deliver digital inclusion.

PROVIDER UPDATES



[BT has launched two new initiatives](#), the Green Tech Innovation Platform and the UK Electric Fleets Alliance, which will drive the UK's transition to Net Zero carbon emissions and contribute to a green post-Covid19 recovery for the UK. The Green Tech Innovation Platform will work in partnership with Plug and Play to uncover the latest technologies from UK-based scale ups to

support BT and its public sector customers transition to Net Zero. Remote working, smart streets and smart buildings are all areas BT will be exploring through the partnership. BT also plans to announce the scale ups chosen to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with BT, utilizing a wealth of expertise to support business development. As part of the transition to a low carbon business model, BT has pledged to become a net zero carbon emissions business by 2045 and has set targets in line with the most ambitious aim of the COP21 Paris Agreement. With reducing carbon emissions in mind, BT has joined forces with The Climate Group to launch a new partnership - The UK Electric Fleets Alliance. The Alliance will undertake a vital leadership role in the run up to the COP26 climate summit in 2021, highlighting the need to progress towards fleet de-carbonisation.

In July, **Community Fibre** announced a further [£400m investment](#) to build on their full fibre network across London. They [recently announced](#) their partnership with Sutton Council to enable estates across the borough to access faster internet following a master wayleave agreement in December 2019. Community Fibre will be expanding their network to approximately 1million premises across London and want to work with all of London's local authorities in order to support investment into their boroughs. Roll out of full fibre infrastructure work is proceeding at a pace in boroughs where a master wayleave are in place, and Community Fibre endeavour to progress dialogue with the remaining few boroughs without such agreements.

Working in partnership with Inside Housing, a survey was conducted with social landlords to understand their readiness to support their residents in receiving full fibre connections. Read more about the [survey here](#). For more information about the survey, contact Tim Stranack at tim.stranack@communityfibre.co.uk.

Hyperoptic passionately believes that everybody deserves to enjoy the opportunities that are afforded by full fibre broadband – the gold standard of connectivity. Over the last ten years Hyperoptic has been steadily growing its footprint across the Capital. It has agreed partnerships with a number of London councils in order to enable true digital inclusion and bridge the digital divide – Southwark, Brent and Hammersmith to name a few. The rollouts have been supported with free connections to community hubs, digital training and local employment opportunities.

Hyperoptic believes that these partnerships work best where a local authority dedicates an internal sponsor to walk through the authority's motivations and projects. This means that Hyperoptic can help the understand where the rollout can best benefit both parties, and that there can be a smooth transition from network/building deployment to customer installations. That starts with building enthusiasm for the social and economic benefits that a full fibre rollout can deliver for a borough. Hyperoptic has developed a tool that showcases exactly where investment in hyperfast broadband will have greatest its 'Digital Connectivity Social Value Calculator.'

It has been developed in partnership with the Housing Association Charitable Trust (HACT) and social value specialist, Simetrica-Jacobs. The calculator demonstrates that £39m of social value has already been created through Hyperoptic's council deployments in London.

Despite the difficult backdrop of the lock-down and on-going pandemic, Hyperoptic has ensured its 1Gb network has kept rolling out. The Hyperoptic full fibre network is a critical part

of the UK's infrastructure and its engineers have been classified all as key workers from the government. Connectivity has never been more important – we are committed to Gigabit London and our local authority partnerships are key to make it a reality.

A [report](#) by benchmarking company, Umlaut, has named **Vodafone** as the [best 5G network in London](#). The report found that Vodafone gives customers 99.7% reliability when using YouTube on 5G, and 100% reliability for web browsing. Vodafone's network was also the most reliable for file download and upload tests, and had the highest average download speeds, at 215.2 Mbps. The tests measured 5G from all four UK operators, and covered 55% of the total population of London.

Umlaut tested and measured the performance of data services using the latest 5G-capable smartphones, benchmarking the typical user experience on all four UK networks, using a drive test. The benchmark was performed by umlaut communications between 15 – 20 June, 2020 in London. The test area accounts for approximately 4.5 million people – about 55% of the total population of London.

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE NEWS

London based:

[TalkTalk Survey Claims Homeworking Boosts UK Productivity](#) -17/09/20

A new survey by TalkTalk has found that 58% of workers in the UK said they had been more productive as a result of working from home during the COVID-19 lockdown, while 52% never expect to return to the office full time. Internet traffic on the provider's network also remains above normal.

[New 4G Emergency Services Network Faces Another 2 Year Delay](#) – 16/09/20

The Secretary for the UK Home Office, Matthew Rycroft, has informed to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the new 4G based Emergency Services Network (ESN) is now unlikely to completely take over from the existing platform until early 2024 or late 2025. Previously it was due by December 2022.

[67 more locations added to Openreach Fibre First programme](#)– 15/09/20

Openreach today announced a further 67 locations – in its Fibre Cities programme where it will be building its new, FTTP broadband technology. Work will begin in March 2021.

[20% of UK business safeguarded by the power of mobile connectivity during lockdown](#) –

15/09/20. A new O2 survey of 1,000 adults has claimed that 20% of UK business (£205bn of economic output) was safeguarded by the power of mobile connectivity during the COVID-19 lockdown between March and September 2020, which it did by enabling many people to work flexibly and remain productive at home.

[Community Fibre CEO blames Landlords on the obstruction of FTTP Building](#) – 14/09/20

The CEO of CommunityFibre, Graeme Oxby, has said that the “biggest obstruction” they face

in quickly and cost-effectively deploying their 10Gbps capable FTTP network is a lack of support from UK landlords, among other things.

UK wide:

[KCOM's Broadband ISP Engineers Get First Electric Vehicles](#) – 18/09/20 KCOM, which is currently extending the availability of their 1Gbps Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) network across more of East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, has followed Openreach by deploying their first Electric Vehicles for engineers and other staff to trial.

[Over 100 Businesses in Nottingham UK to Get Gigabit Broadband](#) – 18/09/20

The ITS Technology Group and Zen Systems have created a new partnership in order to launch a “gigabit-capable” fibre optic network across a large business park in Nottingham, which is reusing some existing infrastructure in order to cover over 110 local businesses.

[Scottish Government Invests £4m to Boost Interest in 5G Mobile](#) – 17/09/20

The Scottish Government has today announced a new funding package of £4 million, which will be used to establish – S5GConnect Hubs – to help accelerate the adoption of ultrafast 5G based mobile technology across Scotland.

[Jurassic Fibre Prep 1Gbps Broadband for Honiton and Taunton](#) – 16/09/20

Jurassic Fibre, plans to cover 350,000 premises with a 1Gbps capable FTTP network in South West England. They have confirmed that they'll start to expand outside of Devon and into Somerset.

[Cambium Networks Launch 60GHz multi-Gigabit Wireless Tech](#) – 16/09/20

Cambium Networks has become one of the first companies to make a new network available to UK providers that harnesses the 60GHz radio spectrum band.

[Cityfibre UK Build 1Gb FTTP Broadband into First Rural Village](#) – 15/09/20

Cityfibre's FibreNation division, which was previously owned by UK ISP TalkTalk, have completed an interesting new FTTP build that saw them deliver gigabit broadband to homes in the rural villages of Hollins Green and Rixton. They usually only does towns and cities.

[New Procedure Claims to Make Optical Fibre Cable 100x Cheaper](#) – 14/09/20

A small team of Brazilian and Australian researchers have come up with a new way of fabricating optical fibre cable, which borrows some technology from modern 3D printers and could be both significantly faster and “at least 100 times cheaper” than existing methods.



If you no longer wish to receive emails from us please [unsubscribe](#) or [update your preferences](#) to make our emails more relevant to you

This email is from City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA www.london.gov.uk

[Click this link to unsubscribe](#)

This message has been scanned for viruses by the Greater London Authority.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.