

Cheshire & Warrington Digital Infrastructure Plan

Digital Connectivity Board
Wednesday 25th August 2021

Cheshire and Warrington LEP

Digital Infrastructure Plan

October 2020



Digital Infrastructure Plan



FOLLOWS ON FROM 2019 DIGITAL STRATEGY



SIGNED OFF BY LEP STRATEGY COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER 2020



SETS A VISION AND FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES, SUPPORTED BY INITIAL SET OF TARGET MEASURES



SUPPORTED BY RANGE OF GIS MAPPING (THOUGH QUESTION OVER HOSTING, MOVING FORWARDS)



The Vision

*“The Digital Infrastructure Plan will play an integral role in enabling the objectives of the LEP to be delivered and leverage infrastructure assets and investments made to date, **facilitating a step-change towards the next generation of fixed and mobile connectivity.** In doing so, Cheshire and Warrington will be able to service the industries of the future, **provide best in-class connectivity** to its business and citizens and remain competitive, resilient and adaptable to change, in a regional, national, and global context”*

Objectives...

Objective 1 - Beyond developing its priority sectors and key economic assets, C&W LEP is committed to establishing C&W as a world-class digitally connected sub-region, to the benefit of all industries, including SME's, startups, and entrepreneurs

Objective 2 - Address areas of coverage inconsistencies and speed/service inequalities in recognition of changing work patterns, a mobile workforce, reliance on connectivity and the convergence of fixed/mobile technologies

Objective 3 – Adopt/strengthen a consistent barrier busting approach to digital policy

Objective 4 – Drive adoption of digital connectivity by increasing participation/skills and take-up of services

Target Measures...

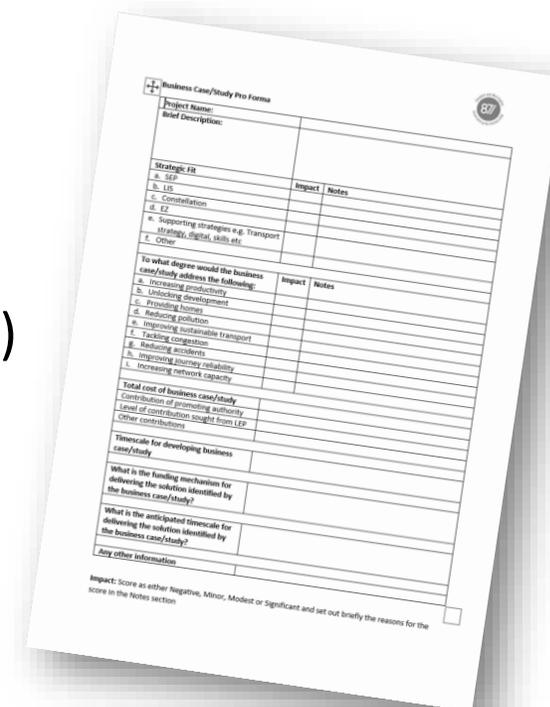
- **Enable Gigabit Capable infrastructure across the C&W LEP sub-region**, with particular focus on delivery to priority/gap areas, through leveraging commercial and government investment programmes that promote services delivered at a fair price and through an open network infrastructure that attracts a wide variety of retail service providers
- **Influence extended 4G rollout** and encourage and promote the role of next generation mobile technology within the C&W LEP sub-region. **Provide support to 5G testbeds and trials**, investigate innovative solutions and use cases, through partnership working (e.g. North Wales Connected Corridor, 5G and IoT), and proactive engagement with operators to fill gaps in coverage and upgrade existing sites; hence taking timely advantage of the benefits and early access to the quickest and most durable technologies

Target Measures (2)...

- Adopt/strengthen a **consistent barrier busting approach to digital policy**
- **Encourage deployment through demand stimulation.** Drive adoption of digital connectivity by increasing participation/skills and take-up of services making sure people (citizens and businesses) have the right skills required to realise the benefits and opportunities of enhanced digital connectivity. Potential long term employment opportunities to help drive / accelerate additional deployment of infrastructure in the region by providing engineering skills - aerial fibre operatives, underground cabling operatives, fibre engineers and civils operatives

Opportunities

- A55 5G Corridor (North Wales Economic Ambition Board)
- LCR Dig Once Programme Extension
- LEP Business Case Development Fund – currently open to Expressions of Interest / applications. Full details can be obtained from Roy Newton (roy.newton@871candwep.co.uk)



Business Case/Study Pro Forma

Project Name: _____

Brief Description: _____

Strategic fit	Impact	Notes
a. SEP		
b. LE		
c. Constellation		
d. EZ		
e. Supporting strategies e.g. Transport strategy, digital, skills etc		
f. Other		

To what degree would the business case/study address the following:	Impact	Notes
a. Increasing productivity		
b. Unlocking development		
c. Providing homes		
d. Reducing pollution		
e. Improving sustainable transport		
f. Tackling congestion		
g. Reducing accidents		
h. Improving business viability		
i. Increasing network capacity		

Total cost of business case/study: _____

Contribution of promoting authority: _____

Level of contribution sought from LEP: _____

Other contributions: _____

Timescale for developing business case/study: _____

What is the funding mechanism for delivering the solution identified by the business case/study? _____

What is the anticipated timescale for delivering the solution identified by the business case/study? _____

Any other information: _____

Impact: Score as either Negative, Minor, Modest or Significant and set out briefly the reasons for the score in the Notes section