

**Greater Brighton Economic Board**  
**Digital Strategy**

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## **Introduction**

This Digital Strategy is an ambitious statement of intent, and a call to action to build the digital future of the Greater Brighton City Region. The strategy identifies how digital technologies will accelerate growth, productivity, creativity and sustainability across our seven local authority areas, and is intended to act as both a prospectus and guide to action.

Digital is a very broad field, and this document provides a way to navigate the terrain, proposing two major themes: **connectivity** and **digital services** that will together enable our digital future. In this strategy we review a significant range of initiatives already underway and also identify areas at an earlier stage of development that need more focus.

It is tempting to propose that because “digital is everywhere” it should be a component in individual strategies rather than brought together in a single document like this. But a focus on digital is so critical to the city region, that we propose both approaches are needed. There will be interplay and integration of complementary strategies as we evolve and mature. For now, it is crucial we bring together our view of digital to help us drive the agenda forward with understanding, focus and determination.

## **Digital Connectivity and Digital Services**

Our digital connectivity theme addresses the infrastructure needed to support our digital future, including full fibre, WiFi, 4G, 5G and internet of things.

The digital services theme addresses the value-generating services that use this connectivity, from intelligent transport systems, smart energy solutions, open data services, industry 4.0, cloud computing for businesses, digital social care and others.

In this strategy, we aim to show the impressive range of current activity in the city region, and across West Sussex, and provide some clarity on the complementary models in play. We also identify areas where we are at an earlier stage of development, and provide recommendations for next steps and exemplar projects.

## **Theme : Connectivity**

Our key strategic aim for connectivity is to **enable ultrafast speeds (300Mb or more) to all business and residential users in the Greater Brighton City Region<sup>1</sup>**.

Ultrafast will provide game-changing speeds in businesses, homes and mobile, and is critical to enabling the City Region to drive forward with its [Five Year Strategy](#), support the [Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan](#) and play its part in meeting the 4 Grand Challenges of the UK Industrial Strategy: [Artificial Intelligence and data](#), [Ageing society](#), [Clean growth](#), and [Future of mobility](#).

But with the Greater Brighton City Region being a diverse mix of larger urban centres, smaller towns, villages and rural settings, our strategy to deliver ultrafast has to be multimode, with public funding applied differently in each context, taking an ownership role where that is needed or commercially advantageous.

Furthermore, the region's connectivity needs are not only for our businesses and residents but also for machines in the rapidly advancing future, whether in manufacturing, transport, or a wide range of sensor based monitoring and management applications. We therefore also need to **deliver, and, crucially, ensure effective management of internet of things (IoT) infrastructure** in the City Region, enabling a wide range of data-driven services and innovations.

### **Full fibre**

Full fibre enables the provision of ultrafast connectivity using optical fibre end-to-end with no legacy copper "last mile". It provides speeds of 1000Mb (gigabit) and well beyond. Ultrafast services will be provided by fibre lines but also through 5G mobile technologies in the future, although all solutions will rely on the provision of full fibre, either to premises, to masts or to small cells.

The UK Government has a target to connect 15 million premises with full fibre by 2025 (although recent pledges push for 'full fibre for all' by this date, widely considered to be unachievable).

Full fibre provides the foundations for next generation digital services for businesses and residents, and is enshrined in the [GBEB five year strategy](#), [Gatwick 360](#) and West

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<sup>1</sup> Ofcom 2015 definition

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Sussex County Council's draft Digital Infrastructure Strategy. It will underpin 5G mobile networks and enable the much wider digital advances needed to meet the 4 Grand Challenges of the UK Industrial Strategy.

There are three components in delivering fibre end-to-end, perhaps analogous to the road network. Motorways and dual carriageways are the roads connecting towns and cities together providing the right capacity for heavy traffic. The fibre equivalent of this is main **spine** or 'backhaul'. Principal roads around town are the equivalent of a **core** or 'metro' network, providing a skeleton from which to build access networks to connect individual homes and businesses. The extent of the core build (Km laid and reach) is important when aiming to get all premises connected, as there has to be enough fibre in the ground to make the commercial business case for suppliers. In an increasing number of larger towns and cities, local authorities are triggering the build of extensive core networks by procuring dark fibre connections to their own premises.

The third component is the 'streets where you live', the **access networks** that commercial suppliers build to homes and businesses out from core networks and rural spines. Securing commercial investment is more difficult for smaller towns and very difficult for rural settings, and this is acknowledged by central government with the new £200m Rural Gigabit Connectivity Programme from Building Digital UK (the new name for BDUK).

### **What's happening in the Greater Brighton City Region?**

There is a significant amount of work underway for delivering full fibre, and we have mapped out those initiatives below. West Sussex councils have established a coordinating group, **EverythingConnects**, chaired by Alex Bailey, Chief Executive at Adur & Worthing Councils. This group has supported the coordination and progress of many of the projects underway and is building strategic capacity for the digital agenda.

We have identified in our research that models have been developed for stimulating commercial investment in our **larger urban centres**, and a model more suitable for **smaller urban centres** is also funded and underway. West Sussex County and Mid Sussex Council are developing solutions for rural connectivity based on building **open access spines** with break out points to serve rural communities. These spines are built to help unlock commercial investment in rural access networks.

The development of 5G wireless access technology is also likely to play a part in reaching rural premises in the future, creating 'last mile' wireless solutions for some rural premises. There are also new products entering the market, such as the BT dark

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fibre product called DFX which may form part of the solution design for rural connectivity.

In all three of these models - large urban, smaller urban and rural - the aim is to **unlock commercial investment in access networks** to get fibre to homes and businesses, delivering ultrafast for all. Market engagement is critical to understand where public intervention is needed and this should be on-going as the landscape changes.

### Greater Brighton multimode delivery model: delivering ultrafast to all

Context	Intervention	Outcome
<b>Larger urban centres</b>	<p>Public sector anchor tenancy (package commercially attractive urban centres with nearby smaller urban centres)</p> <p>Public sector asset reuse</p> <p>'Dig once' for new developments and streetworks</p> <p>Build fibre for testbeds and R&amp;D</p>	<p>Increases prospects of large scale commercial fibre-to-the-home rollout</p> <p>Opportunities for revenue generation from mobile network operators (5G small cells)</p>
<b>Smaller urban centres</b>	<p>Public sector asset reuse</p> <p>Build open access spines to connect towns</p> <p>Build core networks within towns</p> <p>'Dig once' for new developments and street works, assets held in Trust</p>	<p>Commercial suppliers invest in access networks</p> <p>Opportunities for revenue generation from mobile network operators (5G small cells)</p>
<b>Rural communities</b>	<p>Public sector asset reuse</p> <p>Build an open access spine</p> <p>Support communities to aggregate demand</p> <p>'Dig once' for new developments and street works, assets held in Trust</p>	<p>Commercial suppliers invest in access networks</p> <p>Cooperatives form and communities self build</p> <p>Mobile operators provide 5G wireless access products</p> <p>Opportunities for revenue generation</p>

Building open access spine is not only an intervention to address rural connectivity. Opportunities to build open access fibre and/or duct should be taken whenever there are streetworks, and a key initiative should be to implement a coordinated **dig once** policy in the city region, requiring the installation of duct during new build development and street works, assembling duct and fibre assets into a legal vehicle to provide coordinated management of a growing estate and to guarantee open access. An assembled asset portfolio, including physical assets such as streetlights, will be of interest to mobile network operators seeking to deploy 5G small cells, and could generate revenue that can be reinvested to support the region's digital ambitions. The **development of a model to manage open access duct, fibre and physical assets** across the region is being explored through EverythingConnects and is a key recommendation by Coast to Capital in their recent digital connectivity research report.

The **multimode delivery model** provided recognises the different challenges in delivering fibre over the topography of the area. It is a very powerful approach to solving the challenges of providing ultrafast to all, helping leverage commercial and further public investment using methods appropriate to context, and opening up potential for revenue generation. There is great strength and opportunity from an assembled and coordinated approach across our mixed topography.

In relation to the potential for 100% commercial investment in full fibre networks, without public intervention, whilst incumbent telecommunications providers are now starting to invest in the transition to full fibre, it is not yet clear how cities and towns are being prioritised or how extensive those builds will be, even when they are announced.

The following projects are underway through the multimode delivery model:

- Adur & Worthing Councils are using the West Sussex Gigabit Public Sector Framework to connect 90 council assets on a 30 year lease, creating a 54Km **core network** across Worthing, Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick. The £5.5m scheme is funded by the DCMS Local Full Fibre Fund, the West Sussex business rate pool and Adur & Worthing Councils.

The framework supplier, Cityfibre, has announced plans to invest £25m in **Fibre to the Home** (FTTH) in the area, and a Fibre Exchange (network data centre) is being installed on land leased from Worthing Council. The network will deliver services to over 40,000 homes and businesses, with construction from 2020 to 2022. Cityfibre have an exclusivity arrangement for residential services with a single provider for one year, after which access will be opened

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to all providers and price competition will begin. Initially, 100Mb services will be available to the home for £28 per month, 500Mb for £38 and 1000Mb for £48. Business broadband services will be immediately deliverable by any ISP via the Fibre Exchange.

The construction of a contiguous core network through to Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick, connecting council assets, has led to the inclusion of those smaller towns into the supplier's FTTH plans. BT OpenReach have recently announced plans for an FTTH roll out in Worthing only, although plans and timescales have not been published.

- Mid Sussex Council is building a £2.2m fibre loop (core network) in Burgess Hill, also funded by the DCMS Local Full Fibre Network Fund. Smaller towns such as Burgess Hill are less likely to attract the same level of commercial interest for access networks as our larger towns will, hence the alternative model which will offer cooperative asset sharing to local ISPs.

Part of the £2.2m funding will be used to support an open access fibre **spine**, providing resilience to commercially provided backhaul, connecting Brighton with Burgess Hill which will have its own fibre exchange, connected to the Digital Exchange in Brighton. Crucially, the spine will provide break out points along the route to enable future access networks to be built to nearby smaller communities. These break out points are not currently available from the existing commercial 'transit' spines.

- Mid Sussex Council, West Sussex County Council and Homes England are pursuing Dig Once opportunities across the Northern Arc programme in Burgess Hill.
- A further **spine** proposal has also been developed, led by West Sussex County Council to build backhaul connecting Crawley, Haywards Heath, Horsham and on to the Burgess Hill fibre exchange.
- Brighton & Hove City Council have developed a proposition with the Digital Catapult to build a **core network**, creating a '5G ring' and outdoor test bed, extending opportunities for research and innovation. The ring will connect a number of core strategic education, research and public sector assets including the Pavilion Estate, Preston Barracks, GB MET and others.

The Council is also exploring the use of the large urban centre model to procure public connections. Such a scheme would have the potential of being



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followed by a £50-60m commercial investment in Fibre to the Home.

- Crawley and Horsham Councils have formed a partnership with plans to procure connections to public buildings through the West Sussex Gigabit Public Sector Framework, creating core networks in each town. These core networks will of course be served by the spine proposals listed above. This scheme has the potential to attract a Fibre to the Home investment, creating a dense fibre network that will serve Gatwick airport and surrounding businesses.
- Arun Council are similarly developing plans, partnering with Chichester Council to connect public sector buildings through the West Sussex Framework in Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Chichester. This scheme also has the potential to attract a Fibre to the Home investment.
- National Rail is in commercial dialogue with suppliers about a project to install a large amount of fibre along the Brighton Mainline. This would provide capacity for Network Rail's own network management and high-speed internet and mobile reception on trains and at stations. It could also make available dark fibre for both backhaul and break out points.

## **5G**

We know that **mobile operators** are on a path to wide scale deployment of 5G over the next 2-5 years. 5G will deliver average mobile download speeds of 130Mb-240Mb and, importantly, very low latency (delay), opening up a wide range of opportunities for smart manufacturing and agriculture, traffic management and autonomous vehicles, remote monitoring and control solutions, artificial intelligence and holography.

5G is reliant on widespread full fibre infrastructure for its masts and many small cells, underlining the strategic importance of delivering dense fibre networks as a critical step to being **5G Ready**.

Analysts predict that mobile network operators (MNOs) will deploy to large cities in the first years, requiring regions like Greater Brighton to engage with MNOs to attract their investment as soon as possible. This will be through the early deployment of full fibre but also the **removal of barriers such as reducing the cost of street works, liberalising planning and simplifying wayleave agreement processes**.

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Despite efforts to engage with MNOs, we can still expect 5G to be some years away for Greater Brighton, and this strategy acknowledges that there may be intermediate steps that will help deliver better mobile connectivity in the short to medium term.

One task will be to undertake detailed **4G coverage analysis**, to identify “not-spots” across the city region. Where mobile operators are not prepared to in-fill gaps, it is possible that 4G cells or public WiFi hotspots could be provided from fibre connected public buildings to deliver better mobile connectivity. Such assets could also be managed from within the **Trust** model exploiting economic network effects to support revenue generation.

### **What’s happening in the Greater Brighton City Region?**

- 5G Brighton is the UK’s first SME-accessible 5G testbed. It is a distributed facility, housed across the Brighton Digital Exchange, the FuseBox innovation hub and the Brighton Dome & Corn Exchange. It’s aim is to help start-ups and smaller businesses develop products, services and experiences that utilise the unique characteristics of 5G, enhancing regional innovation and productivity in the process.
- 5G Brighton provides 4 levels of support for small and mid-sized businesses looking to understand and benefit from 5G technologies. First, it provides broad expertise to businesses on the opportunities and challenges that 5G could deliver. Second it provides access to a Digital Catapult delivered Accelerator Programme for businesses that want a more in depth knowledge of 5G technology and understand specific considerations around 5G funding, ethics and markets. Third, it provides small cohorts who have specific 5G use cases the opportunity to create and test technical proof-of-concept prototypes. Fourth it provides businesses with the ability to test proof-of-concept prototypes with audiences, customers or clients. The location for this aspect of the programme is Brighton Dome and Corn Exchange where ‘live’ 5G tests of prototypes (with an emphasis on cultural and creative use cases) will be undertaken.
- The 5G Testbed is regularly upgraded to ensure it takes advantage of technology developments and is adapted to any specific use cases that industry proposes. It recently had nb-IoT capability added and planned upgrades include neutral hosting, 5G NR intra band aggregation, 5G LAN and NR mobility enhancements.

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- It is planned to expand the 5G fibre link between New England House and Brighton Dome into a full 5G ring, which would connect research and innovation centres, including universities and colleges, to the testbed as well as ultimately also providing opportunities for business adjacent to the ring.
- Whilst at an early stage, discussions have begun with the University of Sussex and West Sussex County Council and district partners in relation to the rural 5G opportunity. There are strong prospects for government funding given the planned investment from the West Sussex business rate pool in a rural **spine** from Chichester to Horsham.

## **Public Connectivity**

Adur and Worthing Councils are currently undertaking research into the provision of public connectivity (WiFi) services. The principal rationale for this is to provide a platform for added value services on top of the base connectivity, and these are explored later. However at the connectivity layer there is interest in potentially plugging 4G 'not-spots' with equipment that can also be used to deliver public WiFi, meeting a connectivity need while providing a valuable point of engagement with citizens, and potentially creating a revenue generation opportunity.

A recent survey conducted by Adur & Worthing showed that WiFi services are important and people use them to plug poor mobile coverage, to manage their data bundle limitations and for better speeds. 91% of respondents said they would use "**Citizen WiFi**" if it were available. Citizen WiFi is a concept that if designed well, could be deployed across the city region providing a trusted brand, and an opportunity for continuous engagement with citizens and businesses. The concept should be **prototyped and developed at a small scale** and then scaled if successful.

## **Internet of Things**

Brighton & Hove City Council have created a unique testbed in their Digital Health Living Lab, implementing an internet of things (IoT) platform to assess the effects of building improvement works using temperature and measurement sensors. Residents at the sheltered housing scheme use a mobile app to see temperatures inside and outside their homes. The council's social care staff receive automated notifications if temperatures fall outside of a defined range, a system that proved valuable during the heatwave of summer 2018.

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A strategic approach to IoT will be vital for the Greater Brighton city region, enabling well managed and standardised approaches to a wide range of solutions from traffic management, air quality management, flood risk detection, fleet tracking, building management, pothole detection, car parking, EV charging, and many others. Some traffic will rely on ultra low latency provided by fibre and 5G. Local authorities will need to play a role in managing and regulating the deployment of IoT platforms and devices in their localities.

The Greater Brighton Economic Board should **commission a study to develop a strategic approach to IoT** and develop exemplars to explore benefits, and develop scalable solutions.

## **Theme : Digital Services**

By Digital Services, we mean the range of applications, services and capabilities that will make use of the digital infrastructure that is built. The industry standard term is Smart Cities, but we want to emphasise the importance of creating **useful services** that produce a clear benefit, rather than deploying technologies for their own sake. Here, the use of **design thinking** will be crucial to create effective and successful services and experiences.

Local authorities, the Greater Brighton Economic Board, the Coast to Capital LEP, universities, colleges and the Digital Catapult all have their part to play in partnership with business in driving value from the next generation of infrastructure being implemented. It will be critical to the emerging Local Industrial Strategy that investment, capacity and focus is given to generating high impact interventions in many of these areas. Clear and strong coordination will be required.

There will be some applications that will take some years to come forward, for example, driverless cars, but there are other applications such as digital social care solutions that must be ‘pulled forward’ with some urgency to address key challenges.

Understandably given the range of pressures public services are under, there are significant capability, capacity and funding gaps that are already leading to significant missed opportunities across a range of areas. This section seeks to highlight the potential in these areas and what first steps might be taken. Undertaking research and building propositions in these areas will enable the Greater Brighton city region to be “**bid ready**”.

## **Open Data & Standards**

How data is generated, collected, stored and shared is of critical importance for the city region's digital future. Local authorities have a key role to play in ensuring effective and **democratic governance** of the technologies, digital services and uses of data that will emerge in public spaces and people's homes from a range of public and commercial bodies.

The privacy of citizen data will be paramount, and public bodies need to be aware of these issues when contracting commercial providers. The way data is collected, analysed and shared must protect the data rights of individuals through transparent and regulated practices of user permission protocols and data anonymisation.

Connected vehicles, sensors, cameras, and traffic lights will generate large volumes of data that must be treated appropriately to guarantee citizen's data rights. The deployment of sensors and devices in people's homes - digital home care - must also be carefully regulated.

A **geospatial referencing system**, using open data standards, will be needed to enable connection of data sources public and private to support a **smart operating system** in the region. Such a system will provide integration of solutions relating to intelligent transportation, smart energy grids, environmental monitoring and public asset management. Some data sources will contain sensitive information about the movement of people, and data aggregation, anonymisation and encryption will be necessary for such datasets, practices that must be carefully regulated by appropriate public, democratic bodies.

## **Business**

Digital and creative businesses need ultrafast connectivity and our multimode model aims to deliver that to them, wherever they are in the city region. They also need opportunities to **co-locate**, and form innovative partnerships. We need to understand these needs more fully, and it is recommended that discovery research is undertaken to map current provision for digital and creative businesses. For example, are there facilities and equipment needed, beyond that currently provided at the Digital Catapult, which could be provided for shared use, such as 3D printers, video production equipment and printing.

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For non-digital businesses, particularly SMEs, we know that many do not have the resources or capabilities to review and transform the technologies they use to deliver their business. From card payment machines and online shop fronts, through to cloud based email, accounting, expenses and HR, there is a need for support for SMEs to transition to modern cloud services. This is **digital inclusion for business** and is a service offer that should be explored at the scale of the city region to improve productivity and profitability.

## **Retail**

The rise of digital will not lead to the death of the high street if digital is harnessed to augment and encourage instore shopping. Research suggests that consumers want **digital mobile channels to complement instore shopping** experiences. Location technologies mean retailers can now use mobile apps to send **push notifications** directly to consumer's smartphones, to flag to them when there is a deal on while they walk around the store. Leading retailers are delivering augmented reality apps, vastly expanding the range of products available instore, while retaining the physical shopping experience. The growth of Amazon's physical stores tells its own story.

A trusted **Citizen WiFi** service has the potential to help retailers, particularly smaller local independents, to engage with shoppers and visitors, promoting their apps and discounts, enabling packaged experiences, for example shop + coffee deals. Clearly full fibre will be critical to support these digital services, some of which will be data hungry and require very low latency (delay).

## **Visitors**

Creating engaging and dynamic digital experiences for visitors is a significant opportunity, helping them find and engage with the wide and varied offer. Ensuring that visitor data is served up effectively to services such as Google search, Google maps, the Moovit transport app and TripAdvisor will extend the reach of the city region's visitor information. Working to create **common data standards and APIs** for visitor information across the region will enable the data to be surfaced in multiple web services and apps.

Digital wayfinding, links to visitor apps and promotion of local shopping would all be possible through the proposed Citizen WiFi service, along with discounts and packages arranged among local retailers, event spaces, outdoor events, cafes and restaurants.

## **Transport & Environmental Monitoring**

The city region's digital strategy needs to drive the development and use of common data standards and open APIs by transport providers to enable an integrated view of travel options to consumers, eventually through to smart, integrated ticketing.

Services such as Google maps and Moovit provide intelligent journey options, the latter with walking, cycling and public transport favoured. However, at present, the bike share options available in some of our towns are not presented, whilst the Uber car service is, and this is to do with the lack of API services for such schemes.

Intelligent traffic management is a significant area for exploration, involving the use of sensor and laser technologies to monitor traffic patterns, intelligent traffic lights, emissions monitoring, speeding, diversions, and car parking bay sensors.

However, it will be vital to design an intelligent transport system that is **strongly aligned to sustainable goals and modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport**. The City Region should use design thinking, data and digital to help move people away from car use. Electric vehicle and personal electric transport use should of course be 'designed in', and EV/PET charging point data should be part of the intelligent transport data ecosystem. There are also opportunities to align outcomes at the physical infrastructure level: a charging point can also be a WiFi access point, and fibre should also be installed. These requirements have implications for EV/PET charging point procurement.

There is a real opportunity for **environmental monitoring** to be extended into community driven projects to help generate data and intelligence across the city region. In Newcastle, the Urban Observatory project has deployed 600 sensors monitoring parameters such as air and water quality, noise, weather, energy use and traffic. Part of the project, 'SenseMyStreet', allows communities to commission sensors and locate them on their streets. Generating such granular level data is helping infrastructure and transport planning. In London, 250 school children recently took part in a trial, wearing special backpacks with state-of-the-art air quality sensors. This was part of Breathe London, which aims to create the most comprehensive air quality monitoring network in the world.

## **Work and Skills**

This strategy maps out a broad and extensive field of digital infrastructure and services. There will be hundreds of jobs created through the many fibre infrastructure projects described, and as the many other areas are developed, a range of commercial and public providers and skills will be needed.

Local public service organisations working on digital transformation are identifying significant **skills gaps** in service design, interaction design, UX<sup>2</sup>, coding and data analytics. For example HMRC based in Worthing have an 800 strong digital workforce and report difficulties recruiting locally based staff with the right skills. They have expressed interest in collaborating to create apprenticeships and identify appropriate learning environments. There are opportunities for public organisations to map their needs, aggregate demand, work with learning providers and **co-produce pathways for local people to access digital roles**.

Similarly this agenda signals further opportunities for council economic development teams and the region's learning providers to undertake skills gap mapping and development with commercial sectors.

## **Health & Social Care**

In the health and social care space, strategic work should be undertaken to develop infrastructure delivery models to allow people's homes to have ultrafast connections to support digital care. This might for example involve developing **connectivity vouchers or discounts** to ultrafast broadband services working with suppliers.

It is also critical to **develop delivery models for digital health self-management**, apps to help manage long term conditions, social prescribing services and self-referral to community support. Many such services already exist but ecosystem curation and digital prescription models are lacking.

Adur & Worthing Councils are leading a £100k MHCLG and NHS Digital joint-funded national project to develop open data standards for community service directory data, working with the NHS and partner councils in Leeds, Buckinghamshire and Croydon. Creating and curating a range of digital services in the health and social care space is a vital strategic requirement.

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<sup>2</sup> User Experience design



## **Digital Inclusion**

A key design principle across this strategy will be that all parts of our communities should be included and access the benefits of the digital future.

In Adur & Worthing, all council owned community centres are being connected with full fibre as are all sheltered housing schemes along with Worthing Library. It will also be important for all fibre projects to work with social landlords and fibre suppliers to ensure tenants receive fibre connections. The public WiFi survey mentioned earlier, showed that some people rely on public WiFi services to preserve their mobile data allowances.

There are sections of the population who cannot afford the right devices, for example school children at home without laptops, and those who lack the skills and confidence to access digital services. We need to **map the current digital inclusion offer** across the city region and review what is delivered and how, to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate. There may be opportunities to engage larger companies and the corporate social responsibility programmes to assist with digital inclusion challenges.

## **Recommendations**

The following table seeks to summarise the recommendations contained in this strategy document. In many domains the city region is at an early stage, and in others it is among the most advanced in the UK. There is a need to grasp the opportunity and build a strategic approach that could see Greater Brighton as a leader in digital futures in the UK.

Should the Greater Brighton Economic Board approve this digital strategy, the recommendations below will be developed into an action plan with ownership and timescales.

The Board will need to consider the investment requirements needed to drive this agenda forward, recognising the opportunity for Greater Brighton to become leaders in place-based digital strategy.

Thematic area	Recommendation
Full Fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adopt the multimode fibre delivery model</li> <li>● Agree EverythingConnects as the coordinating body between projects</li> <li>● Participate in development work by EverythingConnects of a legal vehicle for publicly owned duct, fibre and physical assets</li> </ul>
5G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Undertake granular 4G ‘not-spot’ analysis</li> <li>● Engage with mobile operators on 5G futures</li> <li>● Deliver the Brighton 5G outdoor test bed</li> <li>● Support the creation of a Rural 5G proposition for investment</li> <li>● Develop an aggregation model for local authority assets across the Coast to Capital &amp; West Sussex area (e.g. lampposts), packaged and provided through the legal vehicle to telcos and mobile operators</li> </ul>
Public Connectivity: Citizen WiFi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prototype the Citizen WiFi model in Worthing, to include possible 4G infill scheme</li> </ul>
Internet of Things	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission a study to develop an IoT strategy for the city region, to incorporate open data standards and data privacy approaches</li> </ul>
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Map existing support for business, and commission a discovery project to understand the digital inclusion needs of businesses</li> <li>● Map needs for co-location and shared equipment, such as 3D printing</li> <li>● Map needs for edge data centres to support low latency applications, and 5G</li> </ul>
Retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage retailers in the Citizen WiFi prototype, develop relationships</li> </ul>
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Map visitor websites and data, explore adoption of common data standards and publish open APIs</li> <li>● Work with Citizen WiFi on exemplar projects to build digital visitor experiences</li> </ul>
Transport & Environmental Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commission a report on intelligent transport systems</li> <li>● Feed requirements into the IoT study</li> </ul>
Work and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Convene public sector bodies to discuss digital roles and skills gaps, engage learning providers</li> <li>● Map digital roles/skills gaps in commercial sectors</li> </ul>

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Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Engage health &amp; social care providers to map their current digital programmes. Produce a report identifying opportunities for exemplar projects</li><li>● Encourage adoption of <a href="#">OpenCommunity</a> service directory data standards as they are published across all public service systems and services</li></ul>
Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Map current digital inclusion provision and review the offer against current citizen needs</li><li>● Explore options for funding and commissioning enhanced provision, aggregating demand across the city region</li></ul>

