

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World



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DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

December 2023
Edition #6

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ESSENTIAL IN IMPROVING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Through 2023, we have seen continuous improvements in all aspects of digital connectivity across the UK, with the Aberdeen City Region being no exception. As the Scottish Government's Scottish 4G Infill programme comes to a close, new masts have brought 4G connectivity to rural communities, including two new masts being built and deployed in Aberdeenshire. CityFibre continues to build and expand its full-fibre network in Aberdeen City, and Openreach continue with long-term commercial plans to their network across the region, bringing fibre infrastructure to many areas. The Reaching 100% programme continues to fund the deployment of full-fibre infrastructure to rural areas, and the accompanying Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme has allowed even more residents to use public subsidy to improve broadband connections. 5G deployment by the MNO's, as well as 5G projects through the Aberdeen City Region Deal, are bringing this new technology to the region.

Despite all this improvement, there have been a few instances in the past few months regarding members of the public taking action to prevent, or hinder, deployment of new digital infrastructure. Reports from Hull tell of "a criminal gang" using chainsaws to cut down new telecoms poles being used to expand full-fibre broadband networks in the area. Mobile Network Operators are facing significant public pushback on the deployment of new 4G telecoms infrastructure to improve 4G in poor coverage areas through the Shared Rural Network programme. Even in Aberdeenshire, there are smaller telecoms operators desperately keen to build new infrastructure to serve rural communities but are being met with apathy and negativity.

The key to maintaining progress and improvement, is community engagement. The Digital Engagement Team, through their ongoing work across the Aberdeen City Region, are showing that it is essential that communities are engaged with, advised, and continually supported as measures to improve digital connectivity are being deployed in their areas.

In order to assist and expedite improvements in digital connectivity, there is a need to join up the dots and ease the journey for all stakeholders. Communities and residents need to be informed and brought along in the journey, to have a channel to voice their concerns, whilst being able to access information. Telecoms operators need to have dialogue between Government funding streams, Local Authority departments, and the communities who will be their future customers. Government representatives need to be able to get their information and evidence to the people who need it. Land owners and local businesses need to be involved in the discussion of improving digital connectivity.

The overarching aim of the Digital Engagement Team is to be the enabler for all this dialogue and discussion: to be a clear voice on behalf of communities and residents to industry and Government; to lobby levels of Government for policy improvements for telecoms solutions in rural areas; to work with telecoms operators to help them maximise projects and interventions in the region; to be the local experts in digital connectivity and to support wider strategies at local and national levels.

The Digital Engagement Team is striving to work more closely with communities and residents, in all matters relating to digital connectivity:

- ✓ *Working with the Telecoms Industry to improve network coverage*
- ✓ *Supporting Community Resilience*
- ✓ *Promoting Digital Inclusion*
- ✓ *Leveraging Economic Outcomes*
- ✓ *Developing Community Connectivity Solutions*
- ✓ *Scottish Government's Reaching 100% Programme (R100)*
- ✓ *UK Government's Project Gigabit*
- ✓ *Shared Rural Network*
- ✓ *Working with Scottish 5G Centre*
- ✓ *Lobbying to Ensure Future Commitments from Government*

The Digital Engagement Team is ready and eager to support any resident, any business, and any community in the region, in all matters relating to digital connectivity, and welcome any enquiry to:

digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

or by phone at

01467 469322

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OUTLINES THE OBJECTIVES

This month, we used ChatGPT, the revolutionary artificial intelligence (AI) platform from OpenAI, to seek insight into how we can best improve digital connectivity in rural Aberdeenshire. The results provided by the AI platform were not surprising, but are we doing everything we can?

We asked ChatGPT: “*How can digital connectivity be improved in Rural Aberdeenshire?*”

Response from ChatGPT

Improving digital connectivity in rural Aberdeenshire can involve various strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing internet access and connectivity for residents in these areas. Here are several potential approaches:

1. **Investment in Infrastructure:** Increase investment in broadband infrastructure, such as laying fibre optic cables or deploying fixed wireless access points, to extend high-speed internet coverage to underserved rural areas.
2. **Government Grants and Subsidies:** Provide grants or subsidies to telecommunication companies to incentivise them to expand their networks into rural areas where it might not be economically viable otherwise.
3. **Community Broadband Initiatives:** Encourage community-led broadband projects where local residents collaborate to establish their own broadband networks, often using alternative technologies or working with smaller providers.
4. **Mobile Connectivity Improvement:** Enhance mobile network coverage by installing more cell towers or implementing small cell technology to boost signal strength and coverage in remote areas.
5. **Satellite Internet Services:** Explore partnerships or initiatives that leverage satellite internet services to provide reliable connectivity to rural areas that are challenging to reach through traditional means.

Comments from us

10 different approaches are recommended as potential ways of improving digital connectivity in the Region. Are these approaches already in place? And if so, are they working?

- Openreach expanding commercial deployment & build plans
 - Reaching 100% Programme continues to build FTTP
 - Project Gigabit will promote gigabit capable infrastructure
 - Is there more that can still be done?
-
- R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme
 - Project Gigabit and Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme
 - Aberdeen City Region Deal
 - Future planning for the ‘Very Hard to Reach’ from UK Gov
-
- Digital Engagement Team leading on community engagement
 - Elected Members supporting constituents
 - Engage with all telecoms solutions providers for each area of the Region
 - Promotion of success stories and case studies
 - Is there more we can do?
-
- S4GI has brought 2 x new 4G masts to Aberdeenshire
 - Shared Rural Network will bring further coverage improvements in 4G
 - Aberdeen City Region and Scottish 5G Centre exploring 5G use cases and projects
 - Ongoing relationship building and dialogue with MNO's
-
- UK Government's ‘Very Hard to Reach’ policy is seeking to use Starlink & OneWeb LEO Satellite solutions
 - Is there scope for a ‘local’ partnership to be done for Aberdeenshire?

-
6. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster partnerships between government entities and private companies to jointly fund and execute initiatives aimed at expanding digital infrastructure in rural Aberdeenshire.
- Building relationships with all four MNO's
 - Working in partnership with Openreach to provide local support for their programmes
 - Supporting and coordinating with all telecoms operators able to deploy solutions in the Region
 - Joint funding possibilities – can this be explored further?
-
7. **Digital Skills Training:** Offer training programs and resources to residents in rural areas to improve their digital literacy and skills, enabling them to better utilise available connectivity and participate in the digital economy.
- Significant work being done by Third Sector organisations across the Region
 - Digital Inclusion is included in the Digital Strategy for both Local Authorities
 - Connecting Scotland and the Digital Citizen Unity in Scottish Government developing further interventions
-
8. **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct awareness campaigns to inform residents about available connectivity options, government initiatives, and the importance of broadband access for economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.
- Digital Engagement Newsletter – (this document!)
 - www.scotlandsuperfast.com and marketing from R100 team
 - Promotion and marketing by the telecoms industry operators
 - Social Media and digital marketing approaches
 - Mail drops from various stakeholders
 - Press – radio – TV – should there be more marketing?
-
9. **Regulatory Support and Policy Changes:** Implement policies and regulatory measures that facilitate easier deployment of broadband infrastructure in rural areas, reducing bureaucratic hurdles and streamlining the process for providers.
- UK and Scottish Government's working together to determine scope of Project Gigabit in Scotland
 - Aberdeen City Region Deal has provided responses to Government consultations on improving digital connectivity
 - Are telecoms operators of all sizes able to feed into policy change?
 - Where does the red tape exist that could be improved upon?
-
10. **Continuous Assessment and Upgradation:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of implemented strategies and technologies and be willing to upgrade or adapt solutions as newer, more efficient technologies become available.
- Open Market Reviews and Public Reviews held periodically to inform Government on progress in telecoms industry
 - 'Very Hard to Reach' consultation shows a move away from seeing full-fibre as the default technology for rural locations
 - Regular sessions for Local Authorities to question Government and see statistics and data

Combining multiple approaches, considering the unique challenges of rural areas, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, including government bodies, telecommunication companies, community organisations, and residents, can contribute to significant improvements in digital connectivity in rural Aberdeenshire.

It is clear from ChatGPT's response that the journey to improve digital connectivity in rural areas, such as Aberdeenshire, requires a multi-pronged approach. The positives to take away from this, is that most of it is being worked on, or being delivered already, with all levels of Government and the telecoms industry playing their parts. However, it is clear that more can still be done. The Digital Engagement Team will be doing more as we move into the new year, and will be striving to work closer with communities, closer with Government, and closer with telecoms operators, to ensure that every approach is being delivered. This is how we will get better connected as a Region.

REACHING 100% & SCOTTISH BROADBAND VOUCHER SCHEME

The **Reaching 100% Programme (R100)** is the embodiment of the Scottish Government's commitment to enabling access to superfast broadband – speeds of at least 30Mbps – to every home and business in Scotland. For the Aberdeen City Region, this programme is funding the deployment of full-fibre broadband connections to nearly **17,000** premises across Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire, between 2022 and 2028.

As winter draws in, and daylight hours are reduced, the work being done will naturally slow a little. However, at the end of November, nearly **4,000** premises across Aberdeenshire & Aberdeen City have now been upgraded to full-fibre broadband through the R100 programme, with a further **1,600** premises actively in build at the moment. 95% of this work affects Aberdeenshire properties, showing the commitment to tackle the challenges in rural areas first, where the digital connectivity gap is larger. Looking ahead, the Aberdeenshire area will see some of the most work being done in Scotland through the R100 in the year ahead, showing the commitment to the region.

Alongside Openreach's deployment of full-fibre infrastructure, the **R100 Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme (SBVS)** continues to offer up to **£5,000** of subsidy to install a superfast broadband solution, for premises that will not benefit from commercial, or publicly funded, broadband improvements. **856** of these vouchers have now been used across the region, but with over **6,000** vouchers still available, there is a huge opportunity for residents, businesses, and communities to use the R100 SBVS vouchers to install newer, faster broadband solutions.



It is a key objective of the Digital Engagement Team to directly support more residents, communities, and businesses to utilise these available vouchers, and maximise the benefit of the public subsidy. By looking at a community level, it is possible to aggregate the available vouchers, meaning for example: **10** voucher eligible premises could leverage up to **£50,000** of subsidy, making bespoke and tailored solutions more viable for wider communities and clusters. With a range of telecoms providers able to deploy solutions in Aberdeenshire, vouchers could be used for various technology solutions to get superfast broadband into the hardest to reach

premises. 4G broadband solutions, Fixed Wireless broadband solutions, Satellite broadband solutions, and even Fibre-on-Demand solutions, are all possible.

The R100 Programme has a public facing website at www.scotlandsuperfast.com, and using the “Check my Address” function, residents can use their postcode, and select their address, to see where their property sits in the R100 plans.

[Check my address | Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband](#)

The Digital Engagement Team within Aberdeenshire Council has directly supported many residents, communities, and businesses to utilise vouchers. The team also works closely with all telecoms operators who use these vouchers, and can provide specific, tailored advice on the best solutions for your property. With access to a wide range of data and information, the team is eager to support any resident in the process of using a voucher, or to provide more detailed information on the R100 programme. Contact the team:

digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



**The Scottish Government
#R100 programme is
available to homes and
businesses across
Scotland**

Find out if your address is part of R100 plans at scotlandsuperfast.com

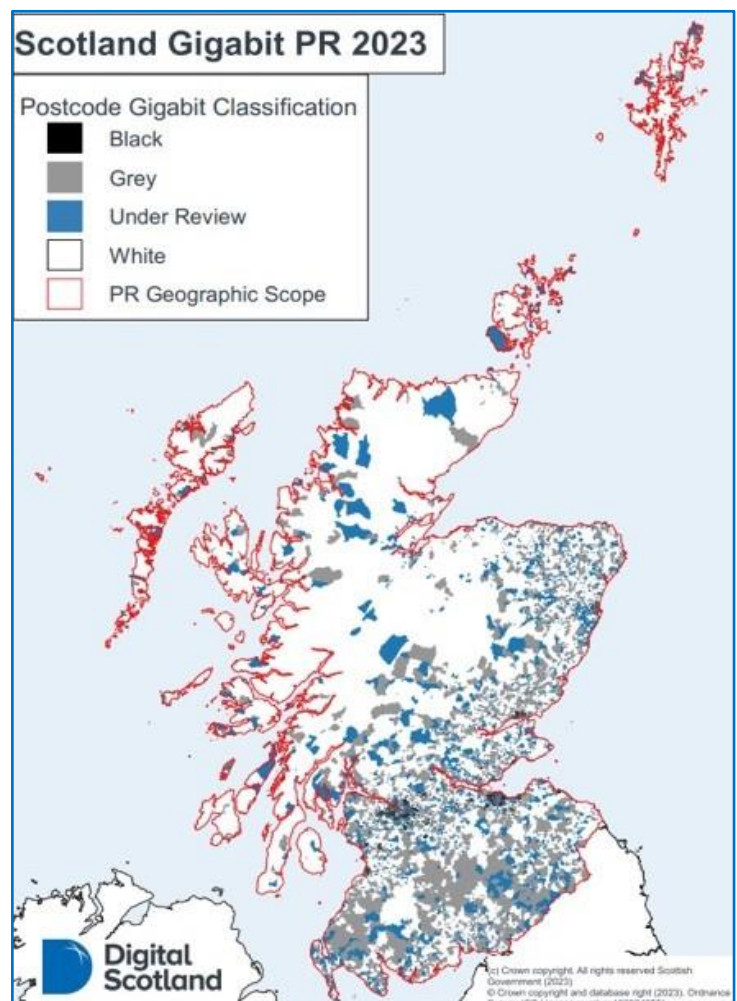


PROJECT GIGABIT

UK Government's Department of Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is delivering **Project Gigabit** – the connectivity programme to accelerate the deployment of gigabit-capable connections, to at least **85%** of all premises in the UK by **2025**, with the rest of the country to be targeted beyond this by **2030**. Project Gigabit includes: funding and provision of subsidy from UK Government; Partnerships between Government and the Telecoms Industry; Neutrality in technology; Promoting Digital Inclusion for everyone.

Scottish and UK Governments are working together to design the approach to deliver Project Gigabit in Scotland, determining what parts of Scotland can be opened as procurement lots to subsidise telecoms industry to build more gigabit capable connections. We await announcements on how this will look and expect more news in the New Year. The Digital Engagement Team, on behalf of the Aberdeen City Region Deal, has been making the case for North East Scotland to see further commitment from Government around connectivity.

The Digital Engagement Team previously submitted a formal response to the 'Gigabit in Scotland – Public Review,' which has been taken into account in the analysis report of this consultation, which can be found [here](#). This Public Review has helped visualise the challenges and opportunities in getting a Gigabit Scotland. The map to the right gives some perspective. **'White'** areas indicate where premises have no gigabit capable infrastructure, and where there are no plans to build gigabit infrastructure in the near future. **'Grey'** areas indicate where premises can already access a source of gigabit capable infrastructure or will be able to within the next few years. **Under review** areas are still to be clarified and confirmed.



In addition to the above information, UK Government is aware that the final percentage of premises to be connected to a gigabit capable connection, will be the 'Very Hard to Reach,' and will likely need an alternative solution, and perhaps a different approach in order to make these solutions viable. Therefore, an additional **£8million** fund has been announced as part of the UK Government's [Wireless Infrastructure Strategy](#) to provide capital grants to further promote new satellite connectivity to the most remote 35,000 premises in the UK.

As the policy on these 'Very Hard to Reach' premises is being developed, the Digital Engagement Team has again provided a response to Government consultation, this time on 'Improving Broadband for Very Hard to Reach Premises.' With data showing that rural Aberdeenshire residents will fit into this category, it is important for the Digital Engagement Team to ensure the voice of North East Scotland is being heard when developing this policy.

The **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme** (GBVS) is another element of Project Gigabit which was available in North East Scotland. This scheme has currently paused whilst the full plan for Project Gigabit in Scotland is determined. Once the procurement plans are finalised, properties which cannot access gigabit capable connections, and are not included in any commercial or publicly funded plans to be connected to gigabit capable infrastructure, will become eligible for a **£4,500** subsidy to help towards costs of installation of a gigabit capable solution. The GBVS can also be used in conjunction with R100 SBVS, meaning some properties could access up to **£9,500** subsidy to help connect to a better broadband solution.

For more information on these plans, or to be kept up to date on developments in Project Gigabit, please contact the Digital Engagement Team.

digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



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THE LOCAL VIEW

As the R100 continues to rollout full-fibre infrastructure, and Openreach continue to follow their own commercial plans, a couple of residents reached out to the Digital Engagement Team in the last month with frustration and confusion. In both situations, the premises in question had been marked as being connected to Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) full-fibre broadband. One had been connected through the R100, another through Openreach's commercial work. In both situations however, residents found themselves unable to order a full-fibre service from Internet Service Providers, and were provided quotes for build costs into the thousands of pounds to 'finalise' the connection.

The Digital Engagement Team was able to open dialogue between all the necessary stakeholders to explore these situations. Scottish Government, Openreach, supply chain partners, ISP's, and the residents themselves. The Team also mapped and researched the data available, to get a full picture of the situation.

The result of this work, is both residents were able to order a full-fibre service, get connected to gigabit capable infrastructure, and do so at no costs to themselves. In both circumstances, we received very positive feedback from the residents, as well as the stakeholders, who acknowledged that without the insight and determination from the Digital Engagement Team, there would not have been a clear route to an outcome.

In addition, a valuable piece of learning these situations provided, was allowing the Digital Engagement Team to make new connections with key stakeholders, and gain access to new data and information sets, to better inform and support more residents and communities across Aberdeenshire.

The Digital Engagement Team works across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council areas, with a remit to support residents, businesses and communities in all matters relating to digital connectivity. For support in your situation, please contact the team at:

digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01467 469322

MOVE TO DIGITAL VOICE – PSTN RETIREMENT

The telecoms industry is retiring the aged Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) in 2025, which means all phone call services will be moved over to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). But what does this mean for customers and residents?

Moving from PSTN to VoIP

- The landline phone number can be retained, and is 'ported' over to the digital service. Similar to mobile phone numbers, once ported, the number can be moved between operators with ease. Once the number is ported, the analogue copper phonenumber will be reassigned, and only provide internet communication services.
- Telecoms providers may provide residents with a new wi-fi router for the property, for the purpose of offering broadband and VoIP. This doesn't mean that a broadband service must be purchased, as many telecoms operators have confirmed they will continue to offer voice only services for residents who do not want an internet service.
- Landline phone handsets will no longer be plugged in to the wall phone socket in the property, but will instead be plugged in to the back of the wi-fi router. Many phone handsets will work straight away with this new set-up; however, a small adapter can be provided by the telecoms provider if a handset doesn't work in the new set-up.
- Accessibility devices, such as textphones, text relay services, amplified phones etc, are all available to work over VoIP connections.
- There will be some changes to how specialist equipment may work with the new technology. If there are devices that are connected to the landline such as telecare alarms, emergency pendants, dialysis machines and telemetry devices, residents should contact the provider of those devices to ensure compatibility with the new system.



VoIP in Power Cuts

Unlike the PSTN, VoIP services will not work by default in the event of a power cut. Once a landline connection is moved to VoIP, the electrical current will no longer be provided through the phoneline, with the whole system being switched off in 2025.

Ofcom has published guidance that states telecoms operators must provide a solution to residents that allow them to make calls in the event of a power cut. It is up to residents to ask for these resilience solutions when taking out a VoIP service. If a resident is dependent on their landline, these solutions must be offered to customers free-of-charge. These solutions will either be:

- a) The provision of a mobile phone handset with SIM card, which can allow residents to make calls when the power goes out.
- b) The provision of a wi-fi router with an integral battery, or a battery pack for an existing router. This battery solution will provide power to the router, allowing for phone calls to be made, and ability to use the internet.

It is important to note that there may be resilience issues in the available mobile phone network in the event of a power cut. Where 4G coverage is not reliable, residents should opt for a battery back-up solution. For more detail on the Ofcom guidance around ensuring calls can be made in a power cut, the guidance document can be found at [ofcom.org.uk](https://www.ofcom.org.uk).

Further Information

The Digital Engagement Team exists to support residents, businesses and communities in all matters relating to digital connectivity. If there are any queries, questions, or requirements for more tailored support in these matters, enquiries are welcome.

by email: digitalengagement@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

or by phone: 01467 469322

online: aberdeenshire.gov.uk/digital-connectivity/

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DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT TEAM JOURNAL

November was a busy month for the Digital Engagement Team, with big events, smaller engagements, and a number of residents being supported directly to improve their digital connectivity.

We attended **Aberdeen Tech Day** at the Sandman Hotel in Aberdeen on 7th November, where a number of tech companies were brought under one roof to shout about innovation and success. You can see highlights from the event at [Aberdeen Tech Day Highlights \(mediascape.ltd.uk\)](https://mediascape.ltd.uk). The **DigitalScotland 2023 Conference** in Edinburgh on 21st November was also a large-scale event bringing together a whole range of stakeholders to discuss innovation and development in the digital space for the Public Sector. The agenda of sessions can be seen at [DigitalScotland 2023 | FutureScot](https://DigitalScotland2023.FutureScot).

The number of enquiries to the team in November increased, hopefully as a response to the engagement being done, and increasing audience for this newsletter. **349 premises** received direct support from the Digital Engagement Team in November, in matters relating to digital connectivity. **71%** of these enquiries were resolved in month with a positive outcome. The team continues to support the remaining properties.

A couple of additional highlights in November have been:

- Aberdeenshire Council's Digital Engagement Team has been working to support four other Local Authority areas in Scotland to replicate the work being done across the Aberdeen City Region, highlighting the recognition of some of the successes being delivered.
- The Digital Engagement Team attended a meeting of the Mid Deeside Estates Hub with Scottish Land & Estates, to advise and support representatives from the Country Estates on digital connectivity improvements and available solutions.
- 11 premises near Peterculter have successfully utilised the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme to develop a Fibre Community Partnership, bringing full-fibre infrastructure to premises that had been missed by the R100 rollout.
- Fordyce & Sandend Community Council, and Feughside Community Council, have both benefitted from a full connectivity analysis completed by the Digital Engagement Team, looking at every premise in these rural community council areas.

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CALL TO ARMS!

We all understand that access to reliable and fast digital connectivity is no longer a luxury but a necessity. It has become a vital lifeline that connects us to essential services, educational opportunities, economic growth, and social interactions. However, many residents still face challenges when it comes to digital connectivity. It is important to raise your voices and actively engage with one another to advocate for improved digital infrastructure.

The digital divide continues to impact individuals, families, and businesses in our area, limiting our potential and hindering progress. But we have the power to change that. By joining forces and making our voices heard, we can encourage key stakeholders to prioritise digital connectivity and take tangible steps towards bridging the gap.

So, how can you make a difference?

Contact Your Local Council: Reach out to the Digital Engagement Team directly and express your concerns about the state of digital connectivity in your community. Share personal stories and highlight the impact it has on your daily life, education, and business endeavours. Help us to prioritise improving digital infrastructure and expanding coverage in underserved areas.

- **Form Community Alliances:** Join forces with fellow residents, community groups, and local businesses who share the same concerns. Together, organise meetings, petitions, or awareness campaigns to bring attention to the issue and amplify our collective voice. A united front will have a greater impact on the decision-making processes.
- **Stay Informed:** Stay up to date with local council meetings, discussions, and initiatives related to digital connectivity. Attend public forums and consultations to voice your concerns and contribute to the decision-making process. Being informed allows us to engage effectively and make a more significant impact.



Remember, change begins with us all. Let's take action and work together to ensure that every community's digital connectivity needs are met. By contacting the Digital Engagement Team and advocating for better digital infrastructure, we can empower ourselves and future generations to thrive in the interconnected world.

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THE MONTH AHEAD

As we move closer to the Festive Season, there are less events and engagements being held, and the Digital Engagement Team will be focusing on community engagement and support.

Some dates to be aware of:

- **12th December** – Openreach have launched a 'Scottish User Group' to allow a forum of discussion with Local Authorities in relation to the retirement of the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN). The first meeting of this group will happen in December.
- **16th December** – An open consultation from Scottish Government on 'Delivering Gigabit-Capable Connections for New Build Developments' is due to close. The Digital Engagement Team will be responding to this consultation which seeks input on proposals to amend building standards to ensure digital connectivity is taken into account when building new homes.

In addition to these dates, the Team is also continuing some key pieces of work. These include:

- A community level analysis of part of the village of Insch, where digital connectivity data appears to have some inconsistencies.
- Further work with residents in Strathdon, to assess viability of various connectivity solutions and liaise with telecoms operators willing to tackle the challenge of this very rural area.
- Expansion of work looking at mobile coverage improvements, working with various stakeholders to assess better ways forward in improving coverage, and identifying new opportunities.

TELECOMS OPERATOR DIRECTORY

Supplier Name	Website	Full Fibre	Fixed Wireless	Fixed Mobile	Satellite
Assured Telecoms Ltd	https://www.assuredtelecoms.co.uk/	Yes			
Bentley Walker	https://bentley-walker.com/			Yes	Yes
Cairngorm Broadband	www.cairngormbroadband.com		Yes		
Converged Rural Broadband	www.crb.scot	Yes	Yes		
Cerberus Networks Ltd.	https://www.cerberusnetworks.co.uk/	Yes			
CityFibre	www.cityfibre.com	Yes			
Converged Communication Solutions Ltd.	https://converged.co.uk/	Yes			Yes
External Reality Ltd.	https://externalreality.co.uk/	Yes		Yes	
Fibairo	www.fibairo.com/	Yes	Yes		
Fibre 1	https://fibre1.uk/	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Flexifi	https://flexifi.co.uk/	Yes		Yes	Yes
Formartinet	http://formartinet.co.uk/		Yes		
GoFibre	https://gofibre.co.uk/	Yes	Yes		
IFB	www.ifb.net/	Yes		Yes	
Leisure Connect	www.myleisureconnect.co.uk/	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Marykirk.com	www.marykirk.com/	Yes	Yes		
National Broadband	www.national-broadband.co.uk/			Yes	
Northsat Ltd	www.northsat.co.uk/		Yes	Yes	Yes
Not Spot Broadband	notspotbroadband.com/	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Openreach	www.openreach.com/	Yes			
Rural Communications	www.rural-communications.com/	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Scotnet.co.uk Ltd	www.scotnet.co.uk/	Yes	Yes		
Scot-Tel-Gould Ltd	www.scot-tel-gould.co.uk/index.html	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Starlink	www.starlink.com/				Yes
Transmitair Ltd / Rapier Systems Ltd.	https://transmitair.com/	Yes	Yes	Yes	
UltraNetworks Ltd	www.ultranetworks.co.uk/	Yes	Yes		
WiFab	www.wifab.co.uk			Yes	
WiFi Scotland	www.wifiscotland.co.uk	Yes	Yes		

INFORMATION DIRECTORY

Below, you will also find a number of useful websites in relation to digital connectivity:

Name	Website
Aberdeen City Region Deal	www.abz-deal.investaberdeen.co.uk/
Reaching 100% & Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme	www.scotlandsuperfast.com
Project Gigabit	www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme
Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme	www.gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/
Shared Rural Network (SRN)	www.srn.org.uk/
Ofcom Coverage Checkers	www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/advice/ofcom-checker
Ofcom Connected Nations	www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research/summer-2023
PSTN Retirement	www.futureofvoice.co.uk/
Openreach Fibre Community Partnerships	www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fibre-community-partnership
Aberdeenshire Council Digital Connectivity	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/business/business-support/communities/digital-connectivity/
Previous editions of Digital Engagement Newsletter	www.publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/digital-engagement-newsletter

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Website

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/business/business-support/communities/digital-connectivity/