

Business and Skills: Digital priorities and headline actions

Council vision

Our vision is for Kirklees to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.

Key Strategic Documents

- **Kirklees Economic Strategy 2019-2025 (DRAFT):** Growing an inclusive and productive economy
- **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014 – 2020:** Healthier people enjoying a great quality of life for longer via a stronger and growing economy
- **LCR Strategic Economic Plan 2016 - 2036:** The Digital Agenda, accelerating good growth
- **Leeds City Region Digital Framework:** Transforming Leeds City Region by digital tech
- **UK Digital Strategy 2017:** The Government’s plan to achieve a transformation in broadband in the UK
- **WYCA Transport Strategy 2040:** Unlocking the potential of SMART technology
- **Department for Education, Essential Digital Skills Framework:** the digital skills adults need to participate to safely benefit from, participate in and contribute to the digital world.

Our Digital Ambition

To stimulate affordable, accessible, appropriate digital infrastructure and skills development; supporting a thriving local economy with world class connectivity for citizens, business, public service and machines.

Key shared outcomes

- **Aspire and achieve:** People in Kirklees have aspiration to achieve their ambitions through education, training, employment and lifelong learning
- **Sustainable economy:** Kirklees has sustainable economic growth and provides good employment for and with communities and businesses
- **Efficient and effective:** Kirklees Council works smart and deliveries efficiently and effectively

Our objectives

- Strengthen and support supplier investment
- Resilient and future-proofed network
- Connectivity as a catalyst for investment and innovation
- Develop personal /life and employment skills
- Collaboration to drive local, regional and national policy and investment

Priority areas

	Leadership and collaboration	Stimulating investment	Extending the network	Demand stimulation
Priorities	Digital connectivity requires strong leadership and co-ordination, a cross-boundary and multi-service approach.	Strengthen and support commercial supplier investment to develop world-class connectivity.	Maximise Gigabit, Superfast, Ultrafast, WiFi and Mobile (including 5G) across all geographical areas	Work with key stakeholders to ensure arrangements are in place to address digital exclusion and enhance business performance.
Why (the ambition)	Work with our partners to drive national regional and local policy, investment and skills to meet Kirklees' future needs. Deliver a resilient infrastructure network that supports a thriving economy where citizens have a good quality of life and business can take advantage of technology to innovate, aspire and achieve.	Kirklees will be a highly attractive destination for inward investment based on its world-class digital connectivity, particularly in key economic centres and at strategic sites. Digital connectivity will be a catalyst for investment and innovation.	To enhance and fill the gaps in the digital network and provide premises with access to the highest available broadband speeds and a choice of supplier.	With the right support, skills and knowledge, it will be easier for businesses and citizens to achieve their growth potential and take advantage of existing and future technology and employment opportunities.
Headline action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create and deliver the Kirklees Digital Infrastructure Development Plan – Establish the Kirklees Digital Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop standard approach to Non-Disclosure Agreements and Wayleaves – Ongoing discussion with suppliers regarding investment in North Kirklees. – Leveraging our infrastructure as a catalyst for investment and innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assess the gaps in network provision – Support City Fibre to deliver their £30 million homes investment – Deliver Superfast West Yorkshire & York Contract 2 and seek contract 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote and increase take up of infrastructure voucher schemes and business support opportunities.
	0-3 months			

	3- 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create and deliver an engagement/communication plan to promote the Kirklees digital landscape and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Aspire to Full Fibre access for Spatial Priority Areas, strategic employment and housing sites and economic centres – Strengthen our understanding of the opportunities and implications presented by SMART cities and the onset of 5G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facilitate connectivity in the hardest-to-reach areas – Facilitate the Network Rail TransPennine Fibre Project with strategic Data Centre locations – Ensure that digital infrastructure expansion and provision is at the heart of planning applications and transport schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Influence supplier-led campaigns to promote the use of digital as part of modern business practice; building digital skills and inclusion; and facilitating digital sector growth – Target/support providers to provide gigabit-capable speeds at KNH tenanted-sites and address digital exclusion amongst tenants
	6 – 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active participation to support the delivery of the LCR Digital Framework. – Regional collaboration to access funding and deliver key projects; maximising benefits for Kirklees. – Horizon scanning including SMART cities and the onset of 5G 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote new development sites to providers – Removing barriers to digital infrastructure investment and planning for infrastructure growth by determining sites for data centres, masts and aerial infrastructure in advance of demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish free WiFi in Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Holmfirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Explore and define digital inclusion; where can we influence/execute change? – Work with LCR and education establishments to create a talent supply chain related to digital infrastructure.