



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 6.1

Digital Connectivity Business Case

- To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
- Meeting Date: 26 January 2022
- Public report: Yes
- Lead Member: Councillor Herbert, Lead Member for Housing
- From: Paul Raynes, Director of Strategy
- Key decision: Yes
- Forward Plan ref: KD2021/074
- Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:
- a) Approve the Digital Connectivity Business Case included as Appendix 1 to this report.
 - b) Approve £4.5m budget from the subject to approval line in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 to 2024/25.
- Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members present and voting
- Any vote in favour must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor acting in place of the Mayor, to be carried.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically accelerated reliance on digital connectivity in almost every aspect of 21st century living.
- 1.2 The delivery of the Digital Connectivity Strategy 2021-25 is a key contributor to the Combined Authority's sustainable growth ambitions for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, helping to ensure that a ubiquitous and accessible digital connectivity infrastructure is available to all, supporting effective public service delivery, thriving communities and sustainable business growth.
- 1.3 In January 2021 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board earmarked funding of £6.3m as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2025 to support the next stages of the digital connectivity programme. The budget for 2021/22 was approved, with the remaining £4.5m subject to approval of the business case.
- 1.4 The business case (Appendix 1) sets out detailed proposals for the 2022/3-2024/5 funding allocation of £4.5m for the Board's approval.
- 1.5 These proposals were considered by the Housing and Communities Committee on 10 January 2022. Following discussion, the Committee resolved unanimously to recommend the proposals to the Combined Authority Board for approval.
- 1.6 The Committee report can be viewed via the link below. Item 2.1 refers:

[Housing and Communities Committee - 10 January 2022](#)

2. Considerations

- 2.1 None.

3. Appendices

- 3.1 Appendix 1 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Digital Connectivity 2021-2025 Business Case

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 [Combined Authority Board Report Budget 2021/22 and MTFP - January 2021](#)
- 4.2 [Housing and Communities Committee Digital Connectivity Strategy Report November 2021](#)