

# Progress Update – Broadband in the City

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# Overview of presentation – Improving the State of Broadband in the City

- Rationale and Outcomes of Digital City Programme
- Update on Full Fibre programme and current progress
- Connecting our Communities – A digital inclusion strategy for Birmingham
- Increasing access to Broadband in social housing
- Partnership working cross boundaries – WMCA



# The DIGITAL CITY Programme; Creating the Opportunities to delivering the Investing in Our Future outcomes

*"The city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters"*

## Key Opportunities and Outcomes



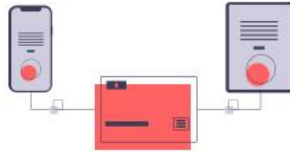
Birmingham as a preferred place of choice for digital innovation



Increased levels of digital investment



Birmingham as a recognised leading Digital City – “Digital Birmingham”



Council services are utilising new technologies and innovative solutions

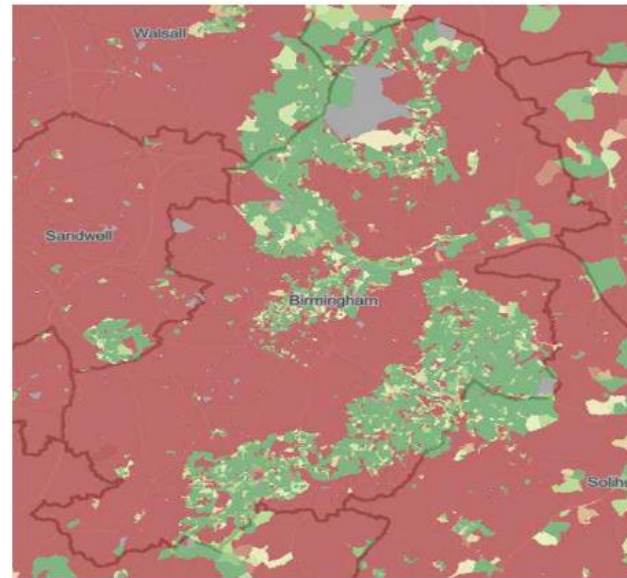
## Next Steps

- Continued internal and external stakeholder engagement
- Up to 5 high level business cases for short term
- A medium to long term digital roadmap
- A report to Council in January 2022

# Update on Full Fibre programme and current progress

## The Stats

- 43% full fibre across the City compared to Coventry at 77%
- West Midlands has largest 5G footprint across the UK
- Birmingham ranks 1st in 5G geographical coverage. (Cities)
- 5G has potential to deliver £14.8 billion additional economic growth
- Some evidence that greater competition and additional wholesale infrastructure is leading to lower consumer prices



Geographical coverage in [%]



Birmingham ranks 1st in 5G geographical coverage.

# Update on Full Fibre programme and current progress

## The Opportunity

To accelerate full fibre rollout, in partnership with the market and to address areas of deprivation and non commercial notspots.

## Progress to date

- Initial Market engagement undertaken
- BCC supplier Engagement Models investigated
- Identified other cities within England who have / are doing a similar exercise
- Developed initial requirements for a Soft Market Test procurement exercise
- Worked on necessary changes to BCCs internal network to support the wider Full Fibre objectives

## Next Steps

- Further develop requirements and perform a Soft Market Test procurement exercise
  - Onboard an external consultancy service to support market engagement
  - Continue to work on rationalisation and modernisation of BCC internal network
  - Go out to the market and select preferred partner(s)
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# ***Connecting our Communities: A digital inclusion strategy for Birmingham***

## **The Opportunity**

To minimise inequality facing our citizens and communities by increasing their digital connectivity, capability and capacity and enhancing their life chances

## **The Challenge**

- In 2021, there still remains 2.6 million people completely offline, 39% of whom are under the age of 60
- 11.9 million adults still lacking essential digital skills.
- The pandemic exposed systemic weaknesses in digital infrastructure, digital skills, digital poverty at all age groups

## **Progress to date**

- A digital inclusion strategy and action plan codesigned by city stakeholders has been approved
- Over 5,000 devices delivered to young people via the Digital Education Partnership and Council

## **Next Steps**

- A physical launch of the Digital Strategy on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- Provision of 600 desktops to community groups and charities for free
- Distribution of 5000 laptops to vulnerable citizens and communities over the next two years
- Establishment of a digital inclusion team by January 2022



# Increasing access to Broadband in social housing

## The Opportunity

- To ensure that those in social housing are not left behind

## The Challenge

- Openreach are a wholesale infrastructure provider. Work still needs to be undertaken to identify cost effective service providers that can meet required of social housing tenants

## Progress to date

- 38 multi-dwelling units are currently in scope for full fibre deployment as tranche one with Openreach
- 15 multi dwelling units have been completed as part of phase 1 and 2 of tranche one
- Dwellings for phase 3 are being surveyed

## Next Steps

- A further 50 multi dwelling units have been identified as tranche 2 working with Openreach
- Further negotiations underway with alternative service providers that deliver specialist services for social housing tenants



# Partnership working cross boundaries – WMCA

## The Opportunity

- To better co-ordinate, align activities and leverage regional and national funds level as well as exchange knowledge, expertise and lessons learnt

## The Challenge

- To ensure that there is a strategic focus on Birmingham and the city does not miss out on opportunities

## Progress to date

- Supported barrier busting team to streamline deployment of 5G infrastructure
- Delivered myth busting presentations to ward councillors on 5G related health concerns
- Good representation at strategic level on WM Digital Steering Group, WM Digital Skills Partnership, and WM5G Accelerator
- Influenced and shaped the WM key Digital themes and initiated the WM Coalition for Digital Inclusion

## Next Steps

- Coordinate the delivery of the Community Recovery fund proposal for developing online centres in Birmingham in collaboration with Good Things Foundation
- Further develop the Full Fibre Opportunity Zone across the region
- Evaluate and review emerging 5G applications and solutions that support the transformation of Council services





# Questions ?

