

GigaHubs

The GigaHubs Programme in the Midlands Engine region will spend up to £8 million to connect public buildings such as rural schools and doctors' surgeries and provide gigabit broadband across approximately 346 sites. This will help GPs provide remote video consultations and allow whole classes of schoolchildren to be online, at once, with no interruptions.

In September the Operating Board approved £258k over 3-years to support this programme.

Nottinghamshire County Council are content with the Grant Agreement and just need BDUK to approve Business Plan before it can be signed.

Nottinghamshire County Council have designing job descriptions for additional procurement/contract management roles and liaising with the other eight local authorities in it's role as the lead body.

Procurement is planned to take place from Jan-Mar 2023.

BDUK has advised funds will be available to contract from 01 April 2023.

Midlands Engine Business Planning Process

A joint meeting of the Midlands Digital Strategy Board and Steering Group took place on 24 November. The partners to cease the Digital Strategy Board and retain the Digital Steering Group. It confirmed that the most important areas for development were

- Digital Connectivity
- Digital Skills
- Digital Adoption - particularly by SMEs
- Digital Poverty

A task and finish group will be convened for January to confirm specific actions for inclusion in the ME business plan for 2023/24.

Midlands Digital Connectivity Map

Our partner WM5G has advised that the cost to refresh the data in the map would be circa £50k. As a result the decision has been taken to delay any major data updates until the outcome of the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) project are known and the future direction of travel on digital mapping tools is clearer.

The scale and power of the current map can be seen by accessing a video that demonstrates the map. This can be accessed via this link '[Click here](#)'.

Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA)

This programme is being managed by WM5G. Over 340k of assets have been provided to the database via a platform managed by Sitenna.

This activity will not be sustainable in the future beyond 31 March 2023 without mobile network operator funding.