

ABERDEEN CITY REGION DEAL:

Powering Tomorrow's World



Report Name	City Network Extension Project Closure Report
Lead Officer	Paul Macari
Report Author	Wendy Robertson
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Governance	Aberdeen City Region Deal Joint Committee

1:	Purpose of the Report
To inform Joint Committee the City Network Extension project under the Digital theme has been completed and to highlight the benefits realised.	

2:	Recommendations for Action
i: To note the completion of the City Network Extension project. ii: To note the benefits which the project has achieved to date.	

3:	Summary of Key Information
<p>3.1 In 2017 the Business Case for the 'City Network Extension' project was approved by Aberdeen City Region Deal (ACRD) Joint Committee. This project was to extend Aberdeen City Council's (the 'Council') corporate network by a further 57 public sector sites in addition to the 120 sites which had already been upgraded to gigabit connections.</p> <p>3.2 The project was designed as a public sector anchor tenancy model, meaning that by connecting public sector through an approved framework (Swan) it could stimulate a commercial investment into the city, to rollout fibre to the premises (FTTP) to homes and businesses.</p> <p>3.3 As a result of the City Network Extension project CityFibre announced in 2018 a private investment of £40M to provide gigabit speeds to homes and businesses. This would make Aberdeen a 'Gigabit City.' https://newscentre.vodafone.co.uk/press-release/aberdeen-to-become-scotlands-first-gigabit-speed-fibre-broadband-city/</p>	

3:	Summary of Key Information
3.4	In November 2021 it was confirmed that all 57 public sector sites had been connected and transitioned to the corporate network,
3.5	This allows the 57 public sector sites to increase their bandwidth if operational needs demand it. In addition to having the flexibility to expand at these sites, they are pro-actively managed in the event of any performance issues / outages.
3.6	CityFibre's commercial roll to date includes Woodside, Garthdee, Ruthrieston, Mannofield, Kincorth, Broomhill, Kaimhill, Ferryhill, Northfield, Rosehill, Hazlehead, Airyhall, Mannofield, Hilton, Torry, Cove, Craigiebuckler. Areas in build include Bridge of Don, Rosemount, Cornhill, Kittybrewster, Sheddocksley, Spital.
3.7	Aberdeen is now considered as a Gigabit City .
3.6	The project has achieved the following benefits against those set out at Business Case:
3.6.1	<u>Securing and stimulating private sector investment</u> CityFibre recently announced a further £19m of private investment, adding to the £40m already committed, to ensure even more homes and businesses across the city will benefit from their full fibre roll out. Full announcement: https://cityfibre.com/news/thousands-more-aberdeen-homes-and-businesses-to-benefit-as-cityfibre-extends-full-fibre-plans .
3.6.2	<u>Increased availability of fibre to the premises in Aberdeen City Region</u> To date, 72,000 homes have been passed and with the announcement of further investment into the city in 2022 this number will continue to increase. Access to the network has proven invaluable to many thousands of households during the pandemic, with the increase in home working.
3.6.3	<u>Securing investment sooner</u> Without the City Network Extension project through the City Region Deal, it is unlikely Aberdeen would have had the same level of private investment and rollout of full fibre.
3.6.4	<u>Scale additionality</u> To date, 558km Network has been built in Aberdeen City noting that it is the same distance between Aberdeen and Stavanger (Norway). In October 2021 CityFibre highlighted this key milestone of 500km of fibre cabling in their commercial rollout in the city. https://www.cityfibre.com/news/aberdeen-to-stavanger-cityfibres-local-network-build-passes-500km-milestone/
3.6.5	<u>Creation of new jobs</u> 85 jobs were created by CityFibre in delivering the network build.

3: Summary of Key Information

3.6.6 Portal Development

CityFibre have established a 'City Gigabit Club' and new portal developed in 2021, this means the cities where CityFibre have a presence local authorities have access to online materials, webinars, and network to speak to other local authorities.

3.6.7 Partnership Working

CityFibre have, where possible, leased duct space from Aberdeen City Council which has minimised potential road disruption, maximised the existing duct network and lessened the carbon impact. An agreement was reached between Aberdeen City Council and CityFibre to enable the network to be delivered to social housing, helping to address digital inclusion in the city.

3.7 CityFibre have worked with, or supported, several community groups:

3.7.1 Donation to local youth football club in Aberdeen to participate in the Edinburgh Cup.

3.7.2 A collaborated with the Silver City Surfers to ensure digital inclusiveness and deliver a series of digital training sessions to residents living in sheltered housing, helping them to stay connected with loved ones and friends during the pandemic.

3.7.3 Sponsorship of CLAN's 'Light the North' trail. This was 50 lighthouses at specific locations in the Northeast of Scotland and Northern Isles. The money raised from the initiative went towards supporting vital cancer support services across the region and helped local artists impacted by the pandemic.

3.7.4 A community donation to the West End/Queen's Cross Christmas Lights in December 2021.

3.8 Benefits still to be fully realised include:

3.8.1 The infrastructure lays the foundation for further connectivity such as 5G and Internet of Things. Jointly the Council and CityFibre are exploring innovative technologies and the opportunities to build on the network now in place.

3.8.2 CityFibre is currently investigating the foundation for expansion into key economic locations

3.9 Future Reporting

3:	Summary of Key Information
3.9.1 The Digital Programme will continue to work with CityFibre and report on the Benefits of the City Network Extension project. All benefits will be captured in the Aberdeen City Region Deal annual report.	

4:	Finance and Risk
4.1 The project has been completed and all invoices and associated costs have been paid.	
4.2 The final spend was £42,845M against a budget of £43,100M, £2m of which was funded from MoU monies. The underspend will be added to the Digital Programme Budget for future ACRD funded projects.	