

PDP event Staffordshire CC - Digital Infrastructure

September 13th 2024

Idris Roberts – Head of Digital Infrastructure - SCC

- **Who/What/Where/When/
Why/How/Hurdles/Ambition**



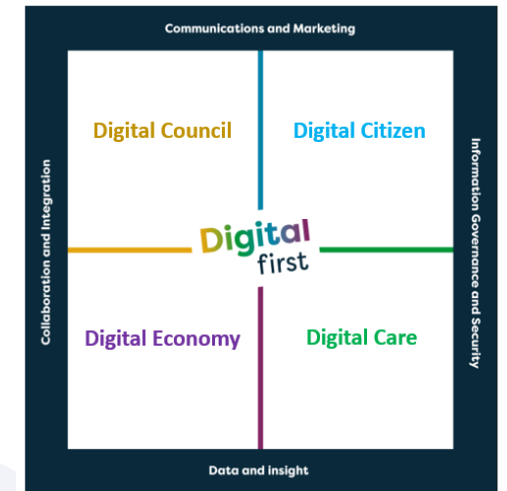
- Who.
 - Digital Infrastructure team is part of Employment, Infrastructure and Skill Directorate at SCC and work with stakeholders including Telecommunications Operators, Central Government (DSIT/BDUK).
- What.
 - To enable ubiquitous access to high-speed digital telecommunications to the 440,000 premises, 876,000 residents and 51,000 businesses (including SOT).
 - By identifying non-commercial premises and using public subsidy (Project Gigabit £5Bn).
- Where.
 - In the 1,000 square miles of Staffordshire, including the interfacing with its 13 administration borders.
- When.
 - Improving on the 97% coverage of Superfast (24-100Mbps) broadband achieved by 2022 to deliver 85% coverage of Gigafast (1,000+ Mbps) by January 2026 and close to 100% by 2030. Currently Staffordshire are at 81% (66% fibre).
 - To date in excess of £50M contracts let, supporting approx. non-commercial 25,000 premises. 33,000 left.



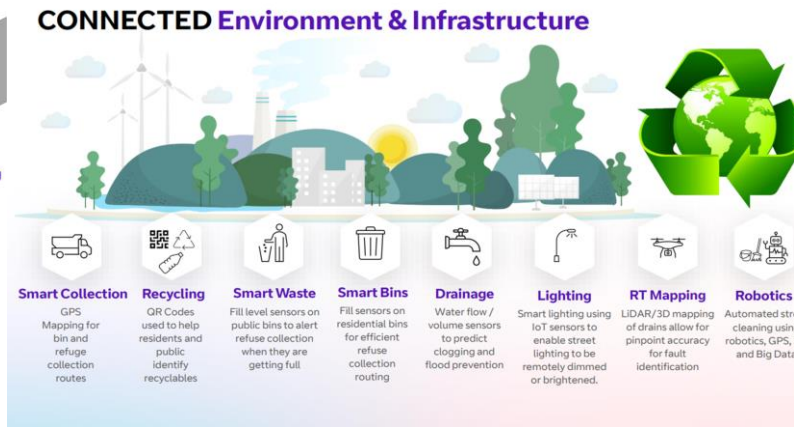
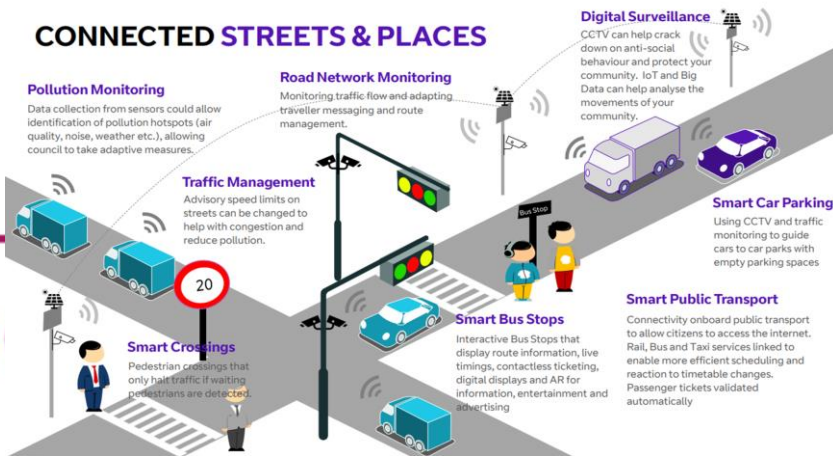
- Why
 - Core to SCC strategy;
 - three priority outcomes:
 - Have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth.
 - Live in thriving and sustainable communities.
 - Be healthier and independent for longer.
 - Capacity as well as speed – Prediction:
 - 200 devices per home will be looking to connect to the internet by 2030.
 - 1M mobile devices per sq km will be looking for connectivity by 2030 (urban).

Current Vision and Strategy

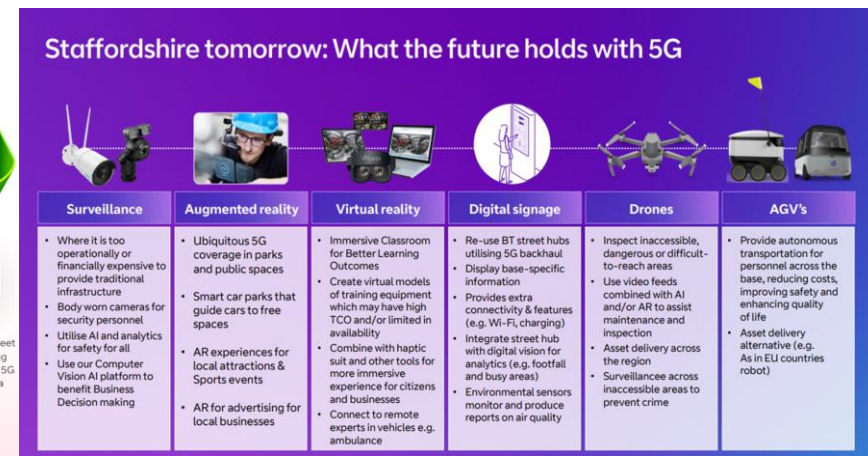
“Digital is fundamental to the way Staffordshire County Council works as an organisation, as well as how we interact with our partners, citizens and communities. We aim to make Staffordshire a county where every citizen and business can flourish in the digital age”



- How.
 - Strategy set out in the SCC digital infrastructure strategic framework – 3 elements.
 - Connectivity
 - Fixed
 - Mobile
 - Access - Communications with residents & businesses.
 - X(Twitter,) websites, facebook etc...
 - Subjects include : availability, social tariffs, withdrawal of analogue/2G-3G mobile etc...
 - Adoption.
 - Working with stakeholders.
 - Integration with other strategies (local transport plan, rural enterprise strategy, core ICT etc).
 - How we utilise new technologies.



Staffordshire tomorrow: What the future holds with 5G



Surveillance	Augmented reality	Virtual reality	Digital signage	Drones	AGV's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where it is too operationally or financially expensive to provide traditional infrastructure Body worn cameras for security personnel Utilise AI and analytics for safety for all Use our Computer Vision AI platform to benefit Business Decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ubiquitous 5G coverage in parks and public spaces Smart car parks that guide cars to free spaces AR experiences for local attractions & Sports events AR for advertising for local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immersive Classroom for Better Learning Outcomes Create virtual models of training equipment which may have high TCO and/or limited in availability Combine with haptic suit and other tools for more immersive experience for citizens and businesses Connect to remote experts in vehicles e.g. ambulance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-use BT street hubs utilising 5G backhaul Display base-specific information Provides extra connectivity & features (e.g. Wi-Fi, charging) Integrate street hub with digital vision for analytics (e.g. football and busy areas) Environmental sensors monitor and produce reports on air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect inaccessible, dangerous or difficult-to-reach areas Use video feeds combined with AI and/or AR to assist maintenance and inspection Asset delivery across the region Surveillance across inaccessible areas to prevent crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide autonomous transportation for personnel across the base, reducing costs, improving safety and enhancing quality of life Asset delivery alternative (e.g. As in EU countries robot)

- Hurdles.
 - Planning.
 - Highways.
 - 8 Districts/2 National Parks/13 county borders.
 - Public opinion.
 - No one want poles, masts or roads/pavements dug up!!
 - Accuracy of data.
 - Fixed.
 - Commercial considerations – some operators refuse to share information.
 - Mobile.
 - Geographic lie of the land & population density/scarcity.
 - Trees, Buildings and other line-of-sight obstacles./Not spots.
 - Meteorological Conditions.
 - Pace of technology
 - 4G/5G/6G, IOT devices, co-ordination of data.
 - Ambition – Vision
 - Enabling consistent technology and connectivity that is accessible for both businesses and residents.



SUMMARY

As well delivering infrastructure projects directly, **enable and facilitate** them through:

- Strategic partnerships
- Policy development
- Advocacy
- Seed funding support

Digital Connectivity	Access	Future Readiness (Adoption)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influence and promote the delivery of digital infrastructure• Ensure reliable and high-speed connectivity for the majority of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure residents and businesses are not left behind• Enhance communication, digital skills, and inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand and promote the adoption of digital infrastructure• Support the enablement of cutting-edge innovations and technologies

SCC has a key role to play in **creating the right conditions** for digital infrastructure investment and deployment, as well as ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital divide. By adopting an **enabler approach**, the council can leverage its assets, influence, and networks to drive digital excellence across the county.



- **Any questions?**

