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# ESSEX + HERTS DIGITAL INNOVATION ZONE

“TO BE THE BEST CONNECTED PLACE OF ITS TYPE IN THE UK. A PLACE OF INNOVATION AND INCLUSION. A PLACE WHERE THE BENEFITS OF DIGITAL INVESTMENT ARE HARNESSSED, MAXIMISED AND SHARED ACROSS RESIDENTS, COMMUTERS, BUSINESSES AND BORDERS.”

(DIZ DIGITAL INNOVATION STRATEGY ADOPTED 2019)

# THE BACKGROUND

- District aspirations to explore smart technology and approaches
- Good connectivity including fibre – What next?
- Future-proofing the local economy and public service delivery
- Early engagement with infrastructure and comms providers
- Wider footprint needed – to make the business case but also to answer the What next question.
- Local health and economic functional areas
- Across administrative boundaries



WHERE ARE WE?

THE PLACE

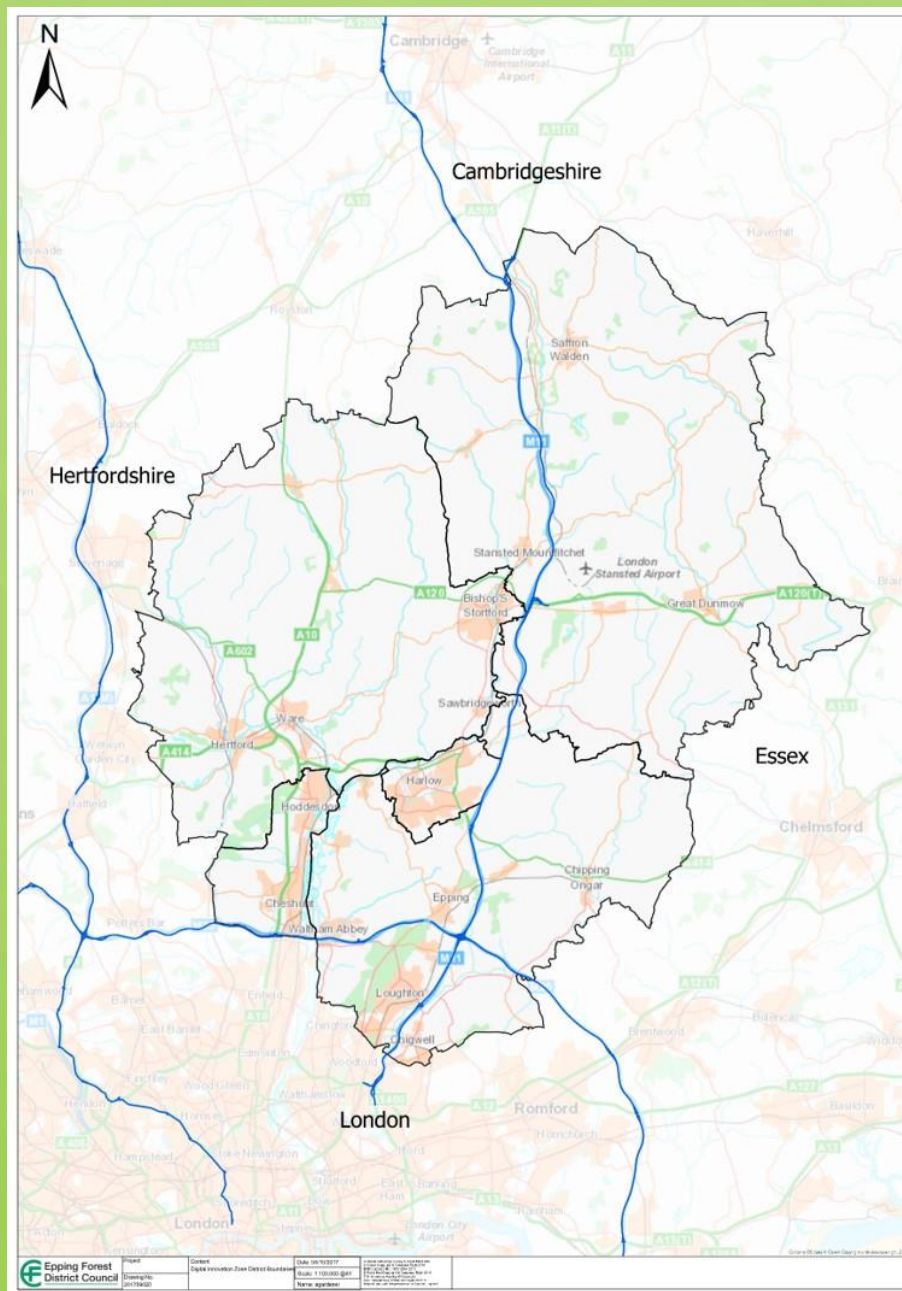
5 Districts

2 Counties

2 LEPS

550,000 population

32,500 businesses



Between the digital hotspots of Cambridge & London in the UK Innovation Corridor



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# HOW HAVE WE BUILT THE DIZ?

## A BEACON FOR PLACE-BASED COLLABORATION - MAKING THE CASE, BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIP





# WHAT HAVE WE DONE / BEGUN SO FAR?

## Smart Place Seminar Series



## LGA / Design Council – ‘Design in The Public Sector’ Ambulance / A&E Project

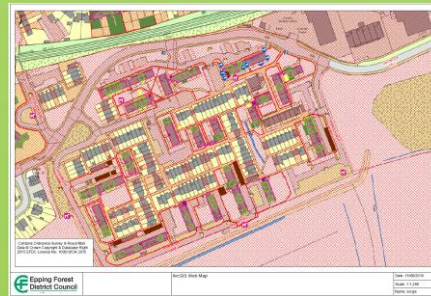
## Digital Leaders DL 100 List – Cross Sector Digital Collaboration Top 10



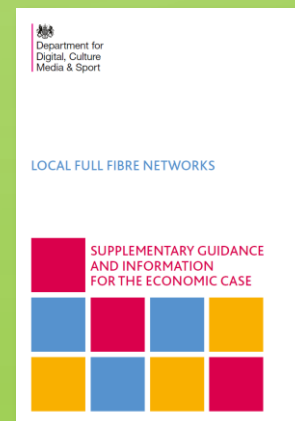
## COVID-19 Collaboration



## DIZ-Wide Common Asset Register



## Successful £1.7m DCMS LFFN Bid



## District-led digital inclusion project



## CVS-led ‘Living Smart At Home’ project



## Place-based Digital Innovation Strategy



## Digital Adoption Conference at BT Tower



# LESSONS LEARNED – CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND PRINCIPLES

- Member / executive champions and lead officers to drive the work programme
- Genuine collaboration – add value, something for everyone
- A clear collective vision and platform for ongoing delivery and collaboration
- Greater than the sum of the parts – accessing funding
- Make it local! Make it relevant! Make it work!



# COLLABORATING OVER COVID-19

- Pre-existing platform and partnership provided mechanism for partners to reach out
- Revised partnership meeting format – online, open, monthly
- Able to facilitate access to best practice that could be shared more widely – weblinks newsletter
- Introduce key external perspectives – global impact, infrastructure, skills agenda
- Positioned to react and bid for funding

Dr Rick Robinson, Director of Smart Places,  
Digital Infrastructure and Telecommunications,  
Jacobs

“The DIZ is one of the most exciting collaborations in the UK. It is pioneering a collaborative approach based on a geography defined not by administrative boundaries but by health and economic need; and amongst partners who are not just talking but investing and acting in the future interests of their economy and communities. This is a model that many areas should explore pursuing.”





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LEADERS

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**DL100 2020**

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