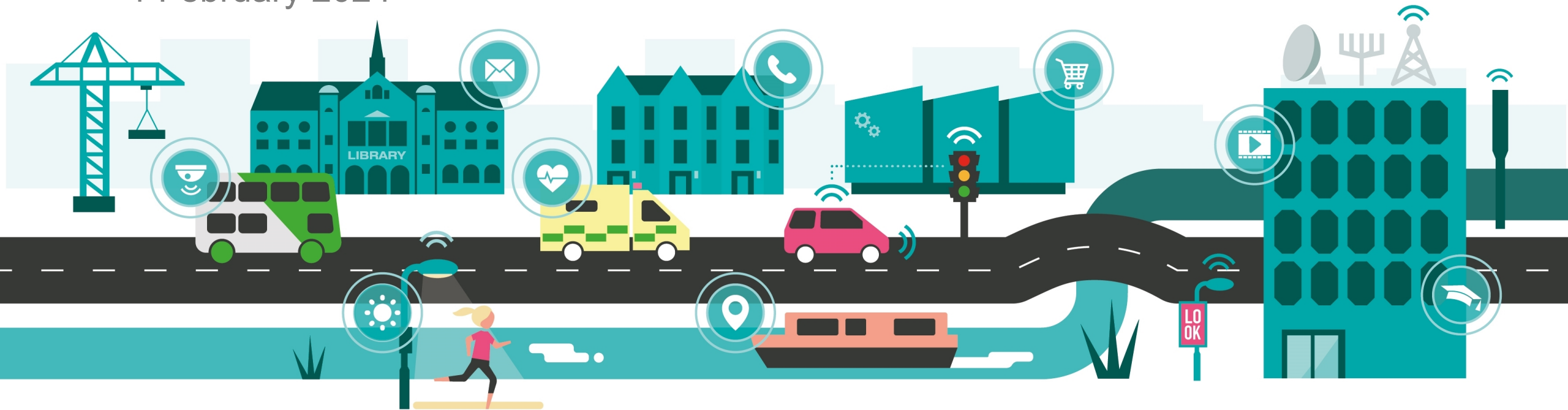


Digital Wolverhampton Strategy – Two Years On

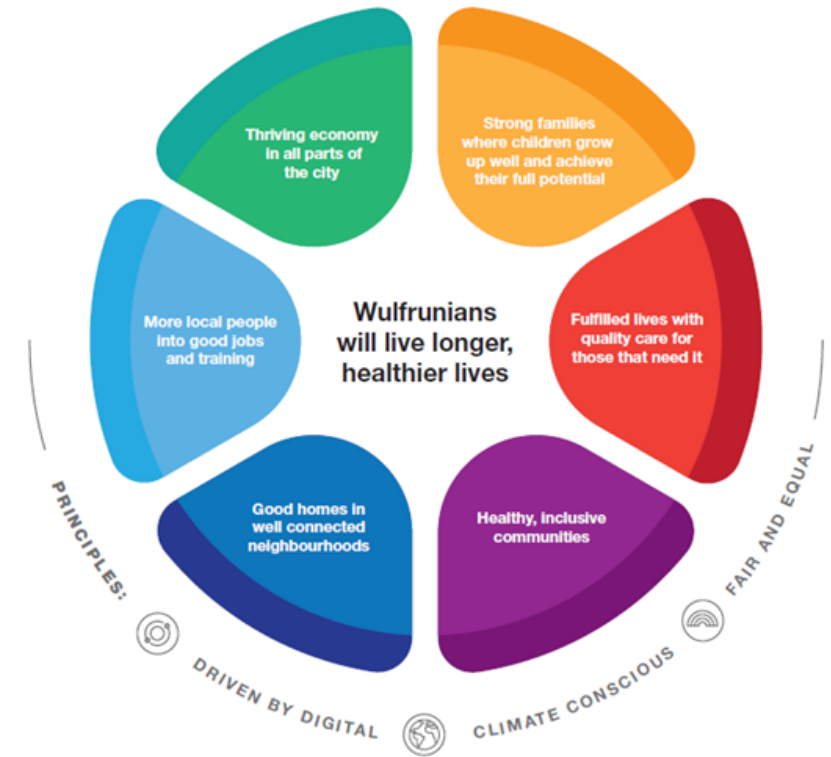
1 February 2024



CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Importance of digital to Wolverhampton

- Futureproofed digital infrastructure, both fixed and mobile connectivity, is crucial for our residents, businesses and the delivery of services.
- Driven by Digital cuts across our City Priorities in Our City Our Plan reflecting its importance.
- Cabinet Member of Digital, Digital Champion and Digital Coordinator in place.
- As well as supporting the rollout of futureproofed digital infrastructure and digital transformation, we must ensure all our residents benefit by proactively supporting digital inclusion across the City.



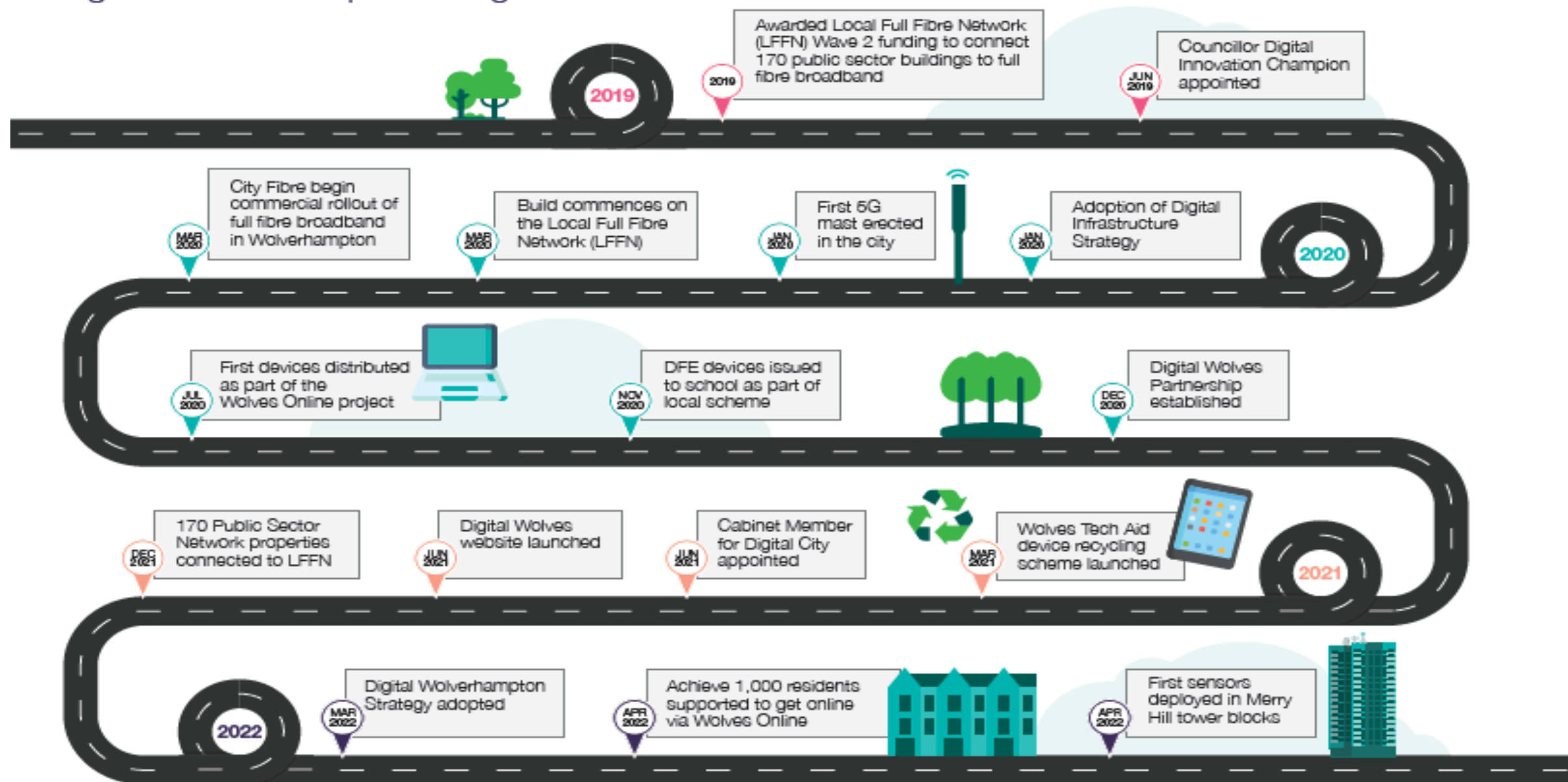
Wolverhampton Digital Strategy

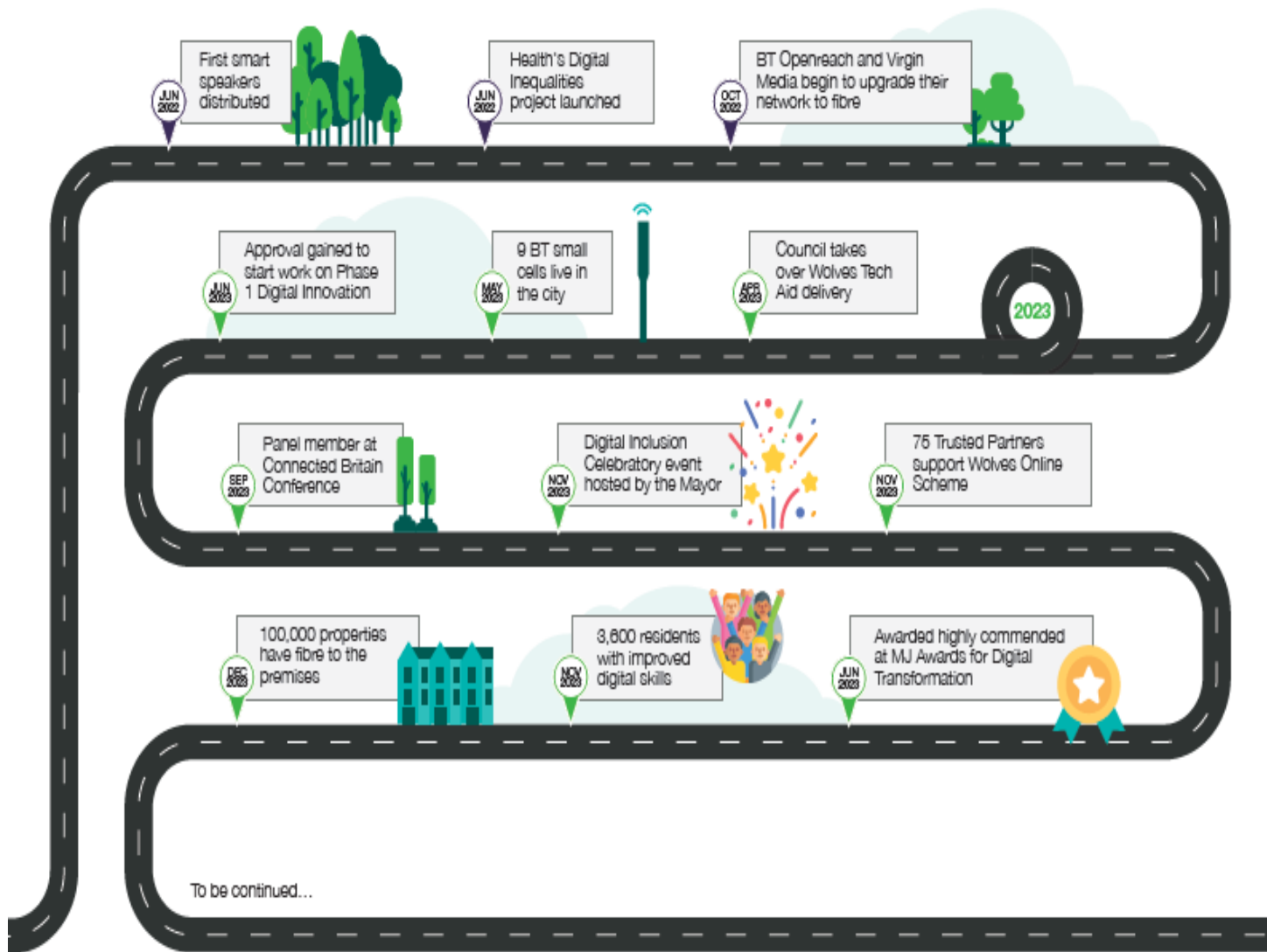
Revised Digital Strategy approved 23 March 2022 building on progress made on digital infrastructure with ambitions:

- **Wolverhampton is a Gigabit and Smart City** using futureproofed digital infrastructure to transform delivery of services & develop new applications to unlock the city's potential.
- **100% digitally included Wolverhampton** ensuring all residents have the access to devices, connectivity and skills to take advantage of what digital has to offer.
- **Growing the digital economy and talent pipeline** building on the city's futureproofed infrastructure to start and grow businesses, creating jobs for residents and meeting skills needs for the future.



Digital Wolverhampton Programme



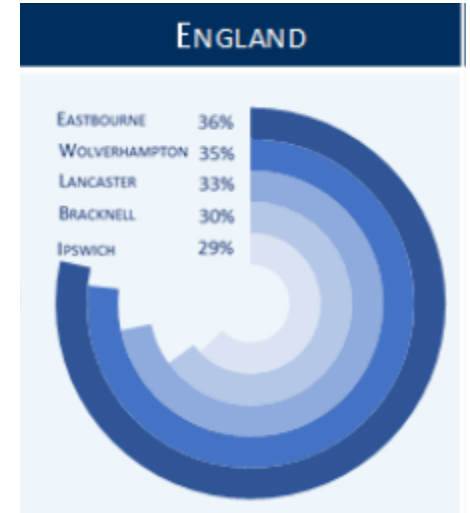


ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2023
MJ
 Digital Transformation
HIGHLY COMMENDED
 City of Wolverhampton Council

Sponsored by **ORACLE**

Fixed Digital Infrastructure

- Gigabit broadband connectivity has increased from 2% in 2020 to 94.61% in 2023.
- Full fibre broadband has increased from 1% to 2020 to 72% in 2023 (Connected Nations September 2023)
- Wolverhampton now has the second highest proportion of full fibre coverage in WMCA region from the lowest in 2020.
- New and incumbent operators are upgrading their infrastructure to full fibre across the city.
- Full fibre will have enough capacity for multiple devices to be used simultaneously and supports future emerging technologies. Broadband suppliers will use existing techniques to deploy the full fibre infrastructure which include using existing ducts, overhead cables and poles before digging up public highways.



Rising star (second greatest increase in full fibre coverage) 2023 State of Fibre report



Mobile Infrastructure

- Demand for mobile connectivity increasing year on year with 21% residents accessing the internet via a smart phone and essential for field workers and IoT.
- 60% of the city covered by 5G from all operators (Connected Nations Sept 2023), highest in WMCA area and one of the highest outside of London.
- 5G masts add capacity to 4G network but ultimately need more masts to meet demand so proactively working to fill gaps in mobile coverage.
- 9 Small cells live at various locations across the city

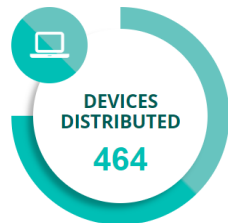


100% Digitally Included Wolves

Wolves Online



Wolves Tech Aid



Connected Services Programme



*That's 2,880,000 hours worth of online browsing

- We have distributed over 3300 devices, supported over 7000 residents to get online through three schemes
- Device lending scheme for residents through a network of 75 trusted partners.
- Device recycling scheme providing donated recycled devices to children to help them get online including 100 devices to one school alone.
- Device gifting scheme for community organisations and eligible residents in 9 wards

All schemes provide connectivity for residents without WiFi at home.



100% Digital Wolves Celebration Event

- The role of trusted partners has been essential.
- To celebrate hitting this key milestone, the Mayor hosted a celebration event attended by 58 trusted partners, volunteers and beneficiaries.



Smart City Use Cases

Developing **technology enabled service delivery** roadmaps setting out how we will use technology to innovate services, address key challenges and contribute to savings.

Initial use cases includes:

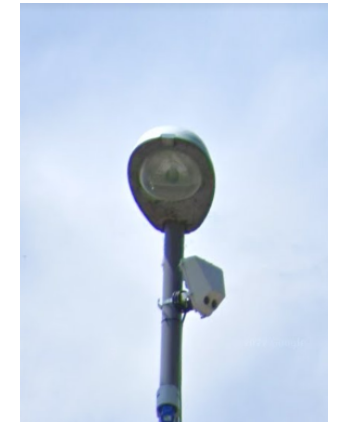
- Home sensors supporting independent living, early intervention and prevention improving quality of life including damp & mould, heat & humidity and vulnerable residents
- Environmental sensors including bin, fly tipping and gulleys
- Footfall counters monitor high street vitality & network management
- Air quality sensors assessing impact on public health

MS Azure to capture all data from sensors showing trend analysis, reports by areas, date and hour, enables cross reference between data



How are smart city use cases funded?

- A Proof-of-Concept fund will be used to fund transformational service delivery by adopting digital, starting initially with the environmental sensors
- WMCA successful bid for DSIT **5G Innovation Region** funding to implement a digital adoption hub trialling Housing and Social Care use cases in Wolverhampton.
- Benefits realised from the Proof-of-Concept use cases should provide services with evidence to invest to save
- The West Midlands Smart City Region Programme will scale-up digital opportunities across the region in health tech, future mobility and smart energy (WMCA)



Digital Economy (Business)

- Home to a number of digital companies employing 2327 with anticipated growth of 5.7% above national average.
- Including School of Code, Learnplay, Stonestrow Media and Goldilock (winner of tech start up of the year at Birmingham Tech Week).
- The Creative Chain network brings together leading digital agencies in Wolverhampton.
- Significant scope for further growth building on full fibre broadband and 5G, the University of Wolverhampton's (Cyber University of the Year) strengths in digital and tech, 5prinG Accelerator and ambitions for the Green Innovation Corridor.



Digital Economy (Skills and Learning)

- Digital skills are crucial for the workplace. Nationally only 52% of workforce have the necessary digital skills for work.
- There are significant opportunities with tech vacancies making up a higher proportion of all vacancies in the UK with the average tech salary 50% higher than the average.
- 223 Wolverhampton residents have benefited from Digital Bootcamps that develop skills and support unemployed residents (58%) and career changers (42%) into digital jobs. Nearly one thirds women and two thirds from ethnic groups.
- Largest proportion in games development/software development/social media and content (37%) followed by cyber security (12%) and data analytics (10%). 15% in green industries – EV charging/heat pumps.
- 2 Digital Infrastructure bootcamps for Civils and Telecoms Engineers (November 2023) to fill address challenges in recruitment.
- Exploring impact of AI on jobs with intention of upskilling staff affected to meet increasing demand in other areas.



Any questions?
#digitalwolves

Find out more about Wolverhampton's Digital Programme
at www.digitalwolves.co.uk

