



Essex + Herts Digital Innovation Zone

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The Background

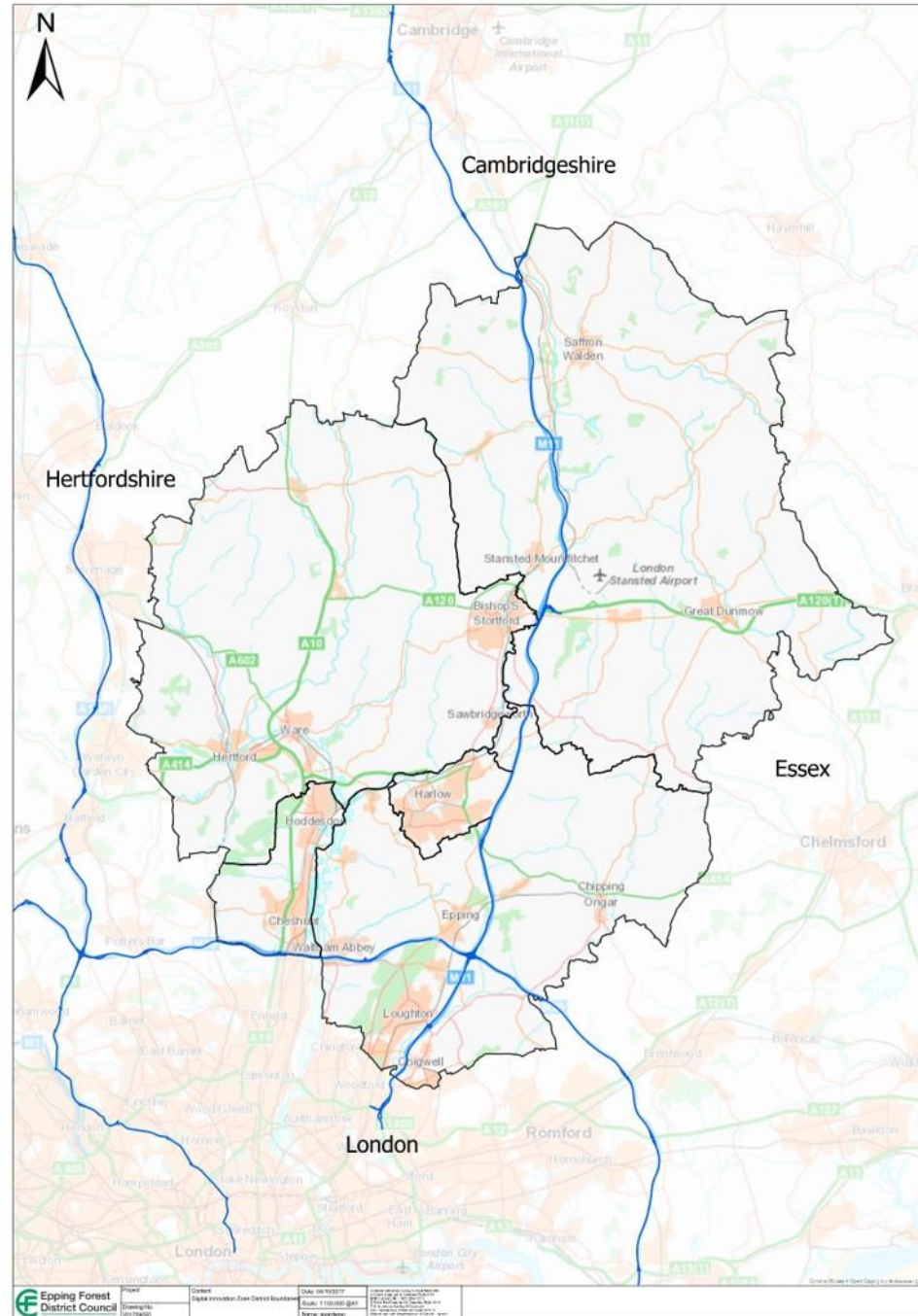


- Local district superfast broadband coverage set to reach 99%
- Aspiration – ‘the best connected district’ in ‘the best connected county’
- Early engagement with infrastructure providers eg. BT, Virgin and digital innovators eg. Easel TV, KAO Park
- Realisation – one district and one sector were not big enough

So what?

Where are we?

The Place

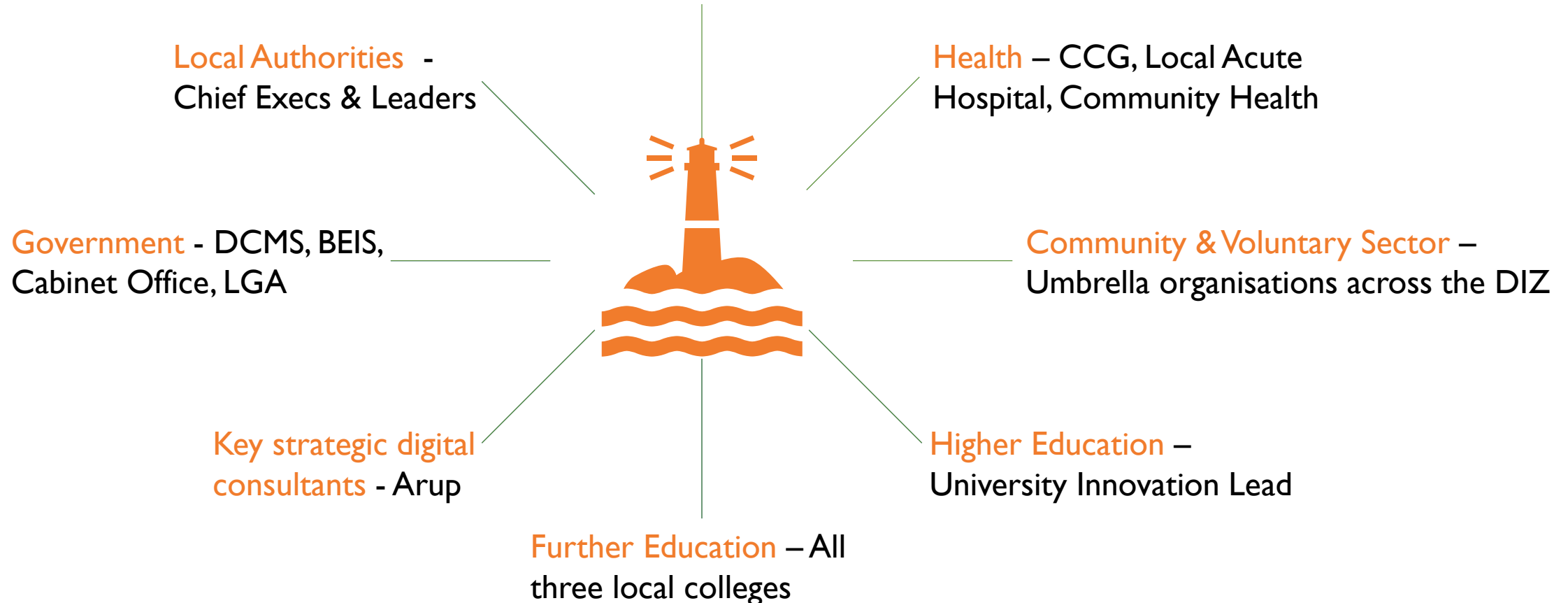


5 Districts
2 Counties
2 LEPS

How have we gone about it?



Private Sector – Digital Infrastructure Providers, Data Centre, Property Developers, Industry, Airport, Innovators, Business Groups, Global IT and Business Process Experts



Leadership and Partnership



- Strong political champion and influence
- Clear vision arrived at collectively

“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 harnessed, maximised and shared across residents, commuters, businesses and borders.”

- Building and maintaining a genuinely effective coalition
- Galvanise and unlock activity

Who is involved?



Hertford Regional College



What have we done / begun so far?



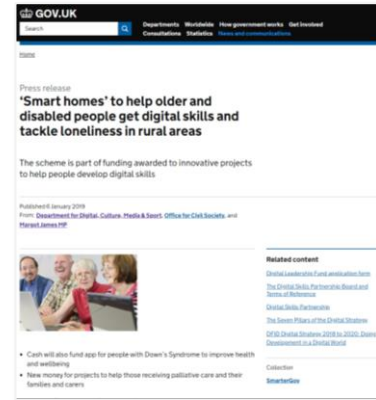
Smart Place Seminar Series



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



CVS-led ‘Living Smart At Home’ project



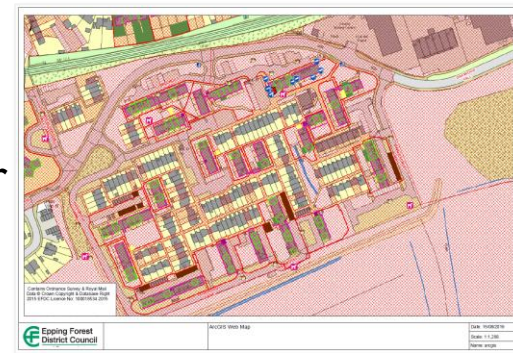
Successful £2.1m DCMS LFFN Bid



Place-based Digital Innovation Strategy



DIZ-wide Common Asset Register



District-led digital inclusion project



What are our plans and aspirations?

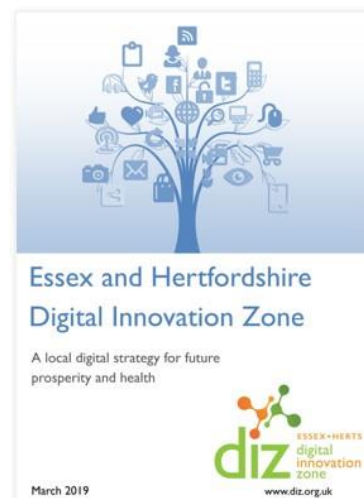
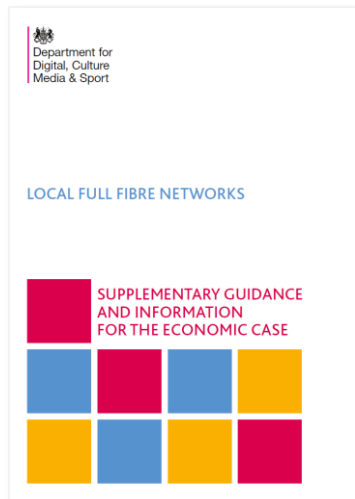


Delivery of LFFN project to over 100 public sector sites by March 2021

Delivery plan for the Digital innovation Strategy – over 60 strategic and over 40 operational recommendations

‘First of its kind’ Digital Census to assess attitudes and aptitudes for digital tech, approaches and delivery of public services

Awareness raising, attracting inward investment, engagement and industry relationship building, a rural / urban testbed for ‘place-based’ tech and digital initiatives, explore 5G opportunities



Key takeaways



- Know and understand your ‘place’, its assets and opportunities
- Create the space and platform for ongoing delivery and collaboration
- Build support as you go, identifying champions and ‘those that get it’
- Add value and find gaps – something for everyone
- Make it local, make it relevant

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