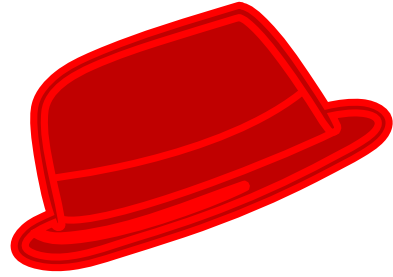UKTIN

Ste Ashton
Digital Infrastructure & Connectivity Manager – Worcestershire County Council
Managing Director - nexGworx

Regional Showcase Worcestershire

UKTIN CLUSTERS (Regions & Nations) Forum

5 March 2024

Ste Ashton

worcestershire
county council

Digital Infrastructure & Connectivity Manager
Worcestershire County Council

&

Managing Director - nexGworx

WCC Contracts

- Airband contract - services remain in place.
- Superfast - Openreach contracts 1, 2 and 3 closed and in financial monitoring

Project Gigabit & Voucher Schemes

- Local Body partnerships (WCC own) – Were fully allocated,
- Gigabit Connectivity vouchers - Worcestershire amongst top areas of vouchers
- secured (£7m+).
- DCMS Project Gigabit – led by BDUK, c. 16,500 premises. Contract award – 2024
- Universal Service Obligation (for those under 10Mbps) and Very Hard to Reach areas
- Giga-hubs project (13 sites)

Support Commercial Activity & Relationships

Mobile Coverage

- Worcestershire Drive Trials 2017 and 2019 to understand coverage
- Mobile Network Operator conversations to encourage improvements
- National drive to improve 4G coverage - Shared Rural Network etc
- 'Understanding mobile connectivity' - opportunity underway (Varied data collection)

5G

- **Worcestershire 5G** Testbed and Trials Phase 1 Ended Summer 2020
- **West Mercia Rural 5G** Testbed and Trial (March 2020 to June 22)
- Support 5G Commercial deployments
- OfB project & Established **nexGworx** – as a subsidiary of MHSP
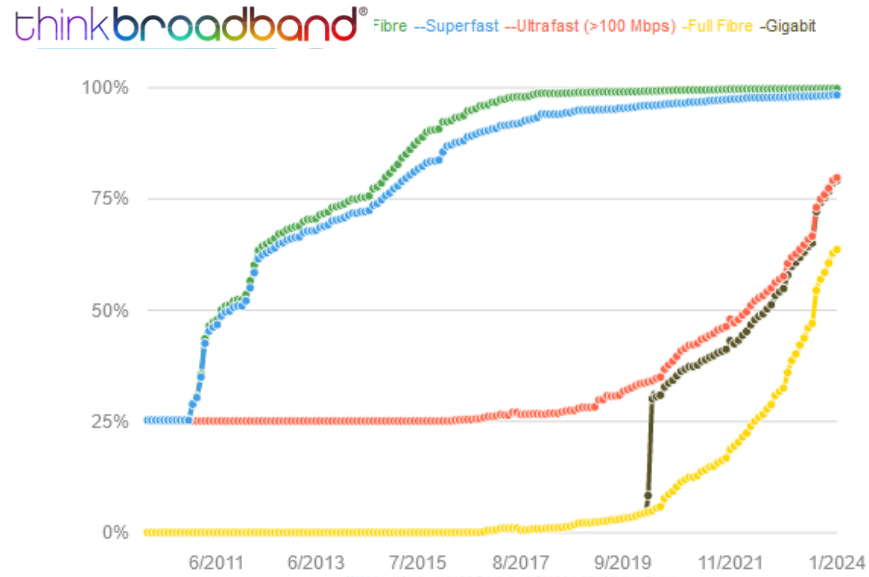- Exploring Other technologies, R&D and Adoption projects

New Projects

- trial of "Network on Wheels" for events being held in Worcestershire – part of ONE WORD
- RSP, £3.75m project to support growth of wireless innovation and technology .

In addition, the WCC project team engage with County and District teams around Local Development Plans, Planning, Highways etc.

Worcestershire Superfast and Fibre Coverage

thinkbroadband® Fibre --Superfast --Ultrafast (>100 Mbps) -Full Fibre -Gigabit

PROJECT GIGABIT
Building fast, reliable broadband for everyone in the UK

Broadband basics: How to check what's available

A guide for residents and businesses on checking on what broadband is available to you and your options to get connected.

Broadband alternatives: Your options when standard connections aren't good enough

A guide for residents and businesses to alternative broadband options when a standard fixed line connection isn't available or doesn't meet your needs.
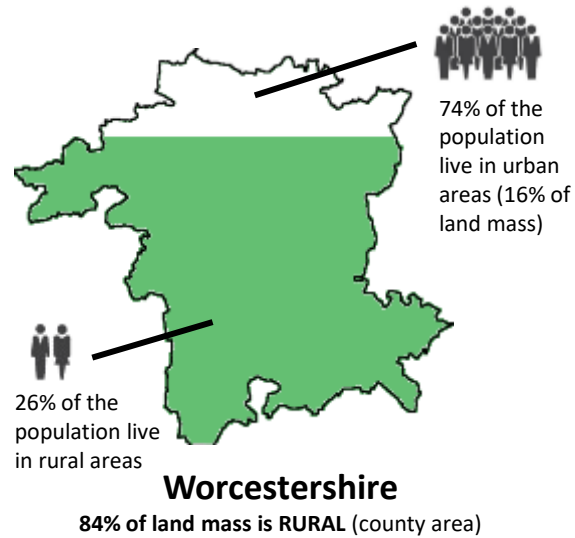
Getting the most out of your broadband connection

A guide for residents and businesses on getting the most out of your Broadband Connection.

Mobile connectivity advice for consumers

A guide providing mobile connectivity advice for residents and business.

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74% of the population live in urban areas (16% of land mass)

26% of the population live in rural areas

Worcestershire
84% of land mass is RURAL (county area)

Rural areas, largely due to their low population density, often fall towards the end of, or do not fall within, commercial mobile deployments.

"Mobile services continue to play an ever more central role in people's lives"

Ofcom
Connected Nations 2022

Understanding and improving mobile telecommunications

Exploring leading edge technologies and solutions

Building smart connected places and services

WORCESTERSHIRE 5G testbed

- Journey began 2016
- First 5G network in a factory setting,
- Enabled first industrial trials of Wi-Fi 6 globally
- Established 'Testbed as a Service' at MHSP
- 5G Skills Report

Gworx nex

- Spring 2021 wholly owned subsidiary of MHSP
- Supporting Worcestershire's business strategy to harness the benefits of 5G connectivity and become testbed of choice to support 5G deployment for Industry 4.0
- Professional services to international and UK companies

WEST MERCIA RURAL 5G PROJECT

- to explore a new model to deliver 5G in rural areas
- how 5G can help provide new ways to deliver health and social care in and to rural communities

- trial of "Network on Wheels" for events being held in Worcestershire – ONE WORD

River Severn Partnership

Advanced Wireless Innovation Region

worcestershire county council

"Network on Wheels" solution

- Events that attract large attendances, such as festivals and sports events, often have poor mobile coverage due to increase in demand or location.

- Working with consortium partners to create and test a "Network on Wheels", which will be deployed at selected events in Worcestershire.

- The solution will provide a mobile HDD network that can be used during the event by all types of users such as organisers, traders, council workers and potentially visiting members of the public.

- We are looking at trialling this solution at about 10 events in 2024 throughout the county.

- "OpenRAN" technology allows Mobile Operators to build networks using a wide variety of vendors, but the industry needs to build more sites to roll out and test the approach.

DSIT's Innovation Regions

The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, invited applications for into a £40 million fund for local and regional authorities across the UK to establish themselves as '5G Innovation Regions'.

Objectives
Projects applying to this competition were expected to meet the following competition objectives:

o drive economic growth across the UK by supporting places to adopt advanced wireless technologies for services based around local opportunities for growth
o accelerate commercial investment in 5G and other advanced wireless technologies by aggregating and demonstrating demand
o foster the 5G ecosystem enabling "learning by doing"

The River Severn Partnership (RSP), one of 10 projects across the UK, and has been awarded £3.75m of Government funding to support the growth of wireless innovation and technology in some of its key economic sectors.

worcestershire
county council

Introducing the RSPAWIR

Awarded £3.75m of Government funding to support the growth of wireless innovation and technology

The River Severn Partnership Advanced Wireless Innovation Region (RSPAWIR) project will engage, encourage and adopt Advanced Wireless Connectivity (AWC) technology into the heart of the RSP's priority sectors:
Rural Industries; Water Management; and Public Services

We will demonstrate, prove, and drive implementation and adoption of new digital products and services.

Our extensive partner network enables dissemination of our work, driving benefit at local, national, and regional level.

RSPAWIR's priority sectors

o Rural Industries (Agri-tech and Food Production)
o Water
o Public Sector (including Health)

Alignment to the inherent industrial strengths and assets within the region.

Reliable water supply, drought and flooding all have a major impact on rural productivity and public services.

Local public services are required to respond to incidents of flooding, incurring costs in prevention, response, and recovery.
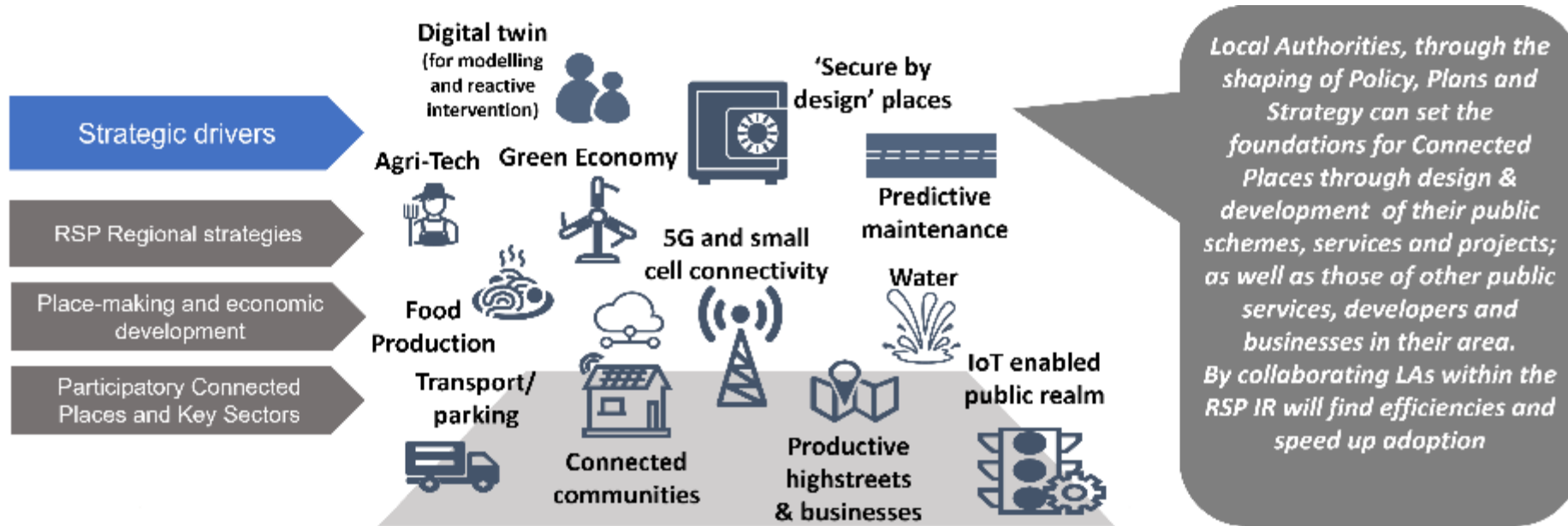
Such interdependencies provide a real opportunity for combined investments and benefit sharing, more effectively managing data to make better informed decisions.
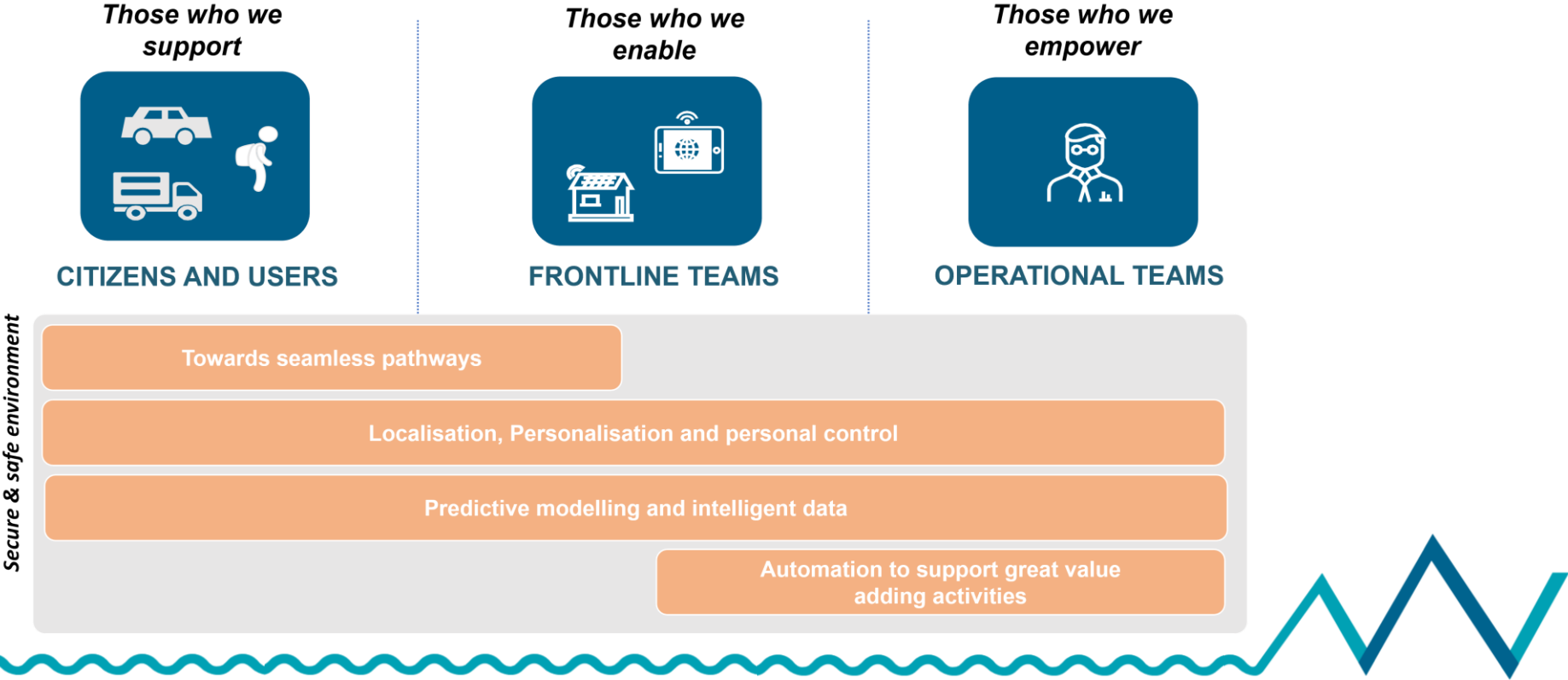
Vision

THIS VISION IS inherently PLACE-BASED – we need a new SMART REGIONALISM OF ENABLED CONNECTED PLACES

Strategic drivers

RSP Regional strategies

Place-making and economic development

Participatory Connected Places and Key Sectors

Digital twin (for modelling and reactive intervention)

'Secure by design' places

Agri-Tech Green Economy

Predictive maintenance

Food Production

5G and small cell connectivity

Water

Transport/ parking

Connected communities

Productive highstreets & businesses

IoT enabled public realm

Local Authorities, through the shaping of Policy, Plans and Strategy can set the foundations for Connected Places through design & development of their public schemes, services and projects; as well as those of other public services, developers and businesses in their area. By collaborating LAs within the RSP IR will find efficiencies and speed up adoption

www.nexgworx.co.uk

Enquiries@nexgworx.co.uk
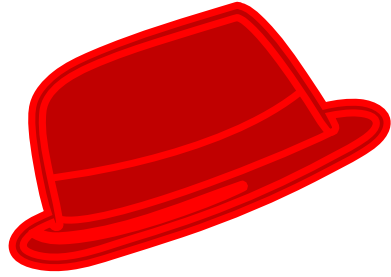
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