

## GigaHubs

The GigaHubs Programme in the Midlands Engine region will spend up to £8 million to connect public buildings such as rural schools and doctors' surgeries and provide gigabit broadband across approximately 346 sites. This will help GPs provide remote video consultations and allow whole classes of schoolchildren to be online, at once, with no interruptions.

In September the Operating Board approved £258k over 3-years to support this programme. Discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council on the Grant Agreement are progressing well.

Nottinghamshire County Council are designing job descriptions for additional procurement/contract management roles and liaising with the other eight local authorities in its role as the lead body. This will hopefully enable procurement to take place from Jan-Mar 2023.

BDUK has advised funds will be available to contract from 01 April 2023.

## Midlands Engine Business Planning Process

A joint workshop meeting of the Midlands Digital Strategy Board and Steering Group took place on 01 September at the WM5G offices in Coventry.

Partners agreed that the most important areas for development were

- Digital Connectivity
- Digital Skills
- Digital Adoption - particularly by SMEs

At the next meeting on 24 November the group will be asked to confirm specific actions for inclusion in the ME business plan for 2023/24.

## Midlands Digital Connectivity Map

Our partner WM5G has advised that the cost to refresh the data in the map would be circa £50k.

As a result the decision has been taken to delay any major data updates until the outcome of the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) project are known and the future direction of travel on digital mapping tools is clearer.

The scale and power of the current map can be seen by accessing a video that demonstrates the map. This can be accessed via this link '[Click here](#)'.

