



# South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan

April 2022



1. Purpose of the Plan.....	3
2. Background.....	5
National Infrastructure Strategy (2020).....	5
Superfast South Yorkshire.....	5
SYMCA Strategic Economic Plan 2021 – 2041 (SEP).....	5
South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy.....	8
3. Delivering the Plan.....	10
Governance.....	11
Funding and resources.....	11
Actions and interventions.....	13
4. Measuring success.....	28

## 1. Purpose of the Plan

The South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy approved by the MCA in September 2021 sets out how we intend to accelerate the development of 'gigabit capable' digital infrastructure and 5G networks across the whole of South Yorkshire and includes proposals for public interventions to support achieving this strategic ambition.

It sets out a Vision to deliver:

**'A Gigabit infrastructure that accelerates new social and economic possibilities for all the people and businesses of South Yorkshire'**

It is underpinned by five key goals:



Ensure South Yorkshire's Superfast Broadband and 4G success is repeated for Gigabit Broadband and 5G.



Support the social and economic priorities set out in the SEP.



Form an inclusive platform that enables better outcomes for all sections of society.



Be supported by the Governance and data-driven approach needed to maximise the digital potential of South Yorkshire.



Position South Yorkshire as a leading centre of applied digital innovation and adoption.

South Yorkshire has huge potential in the digital sector. Connecting people and places is a core part of developing a stronger, greener and fairer economy, and better and more reliable internet access for businesses and residents is a vital part of this. However, as well as seeking to enable core gigabit capable infrastructure networks that catch-up with and even surpass our competitive regions, we seek to drive and support innovation within our local businesses to improve economic competitiveness, and align the upskilling of our local workforce

to support both job creation and our businesses to thrive and prosper.

The South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy's (SYDIS) ambitions and targets build on the success of the existing Superfast South Yorkshire broadband programme which has achieved over 98% superfast broadband coverage and been delivered successfully through a partnership of South Yorkshire authorities and business.

The SYDIS was prepared with support from the MCA Housing & Infrastructure Board, the South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and the Superfast South Yorkshire Programme Board.

”  
“

*With focussed investment and strong governance, South Yorkshire is well positioned not only to have market leading digital infrastructure, but also to be leaders in translating this new connectivity into better social and economic outcomes for the region.*

Working with public and private sector partners, the next step, which this Delivery Plan supports, is to drive implementation of the SYDIS.

Achieving the Vision and Goals set out in the SYDIS will help improve business productivity and competitiveness, address digital exclusion and digital poverty, and make South Yorkshire places more attractive to inward investors and as places to live and work.

Importantly, implementation will be taken forward as part of a holistic approach to the digital agenda; working in tandem to improve the digital skills of our residents and workforce and supporting business innovation and growth.

Supporting enhanced digitisation of our existing business and growing the digital economy are vital to driving local job creation. Our digital infrastructure needs to enable businesses to effectively and competitively develop / utilise the opportunities of Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality/Metaverse, health ER amongst other related technologies.

Alongside this, growing our digital skills will help more people access new employment opportunities, and support

the existing workforce to adapt to the dynamic and changing requirements of workplaces as digital technologies become more commonplace and prevalent.

#### **This Delivery Plan:**

- summarises the background to the SYDIS, including links to the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP);
- highlights the vision and supporting goals set out in the SYDIS;
- clarifies the governance arrangements and funding and resource implications for implementing the SYDIS;
- sets out the actions and interventions which will be taken forward to deliver the Vision and policies set out in the SYDIS, providing clarity on lead organisations, resource implications and timescales; and
- establishes how success will be measured through targets and indicators suggested in the SYDIS and set out in the SEP.

## 2. Background

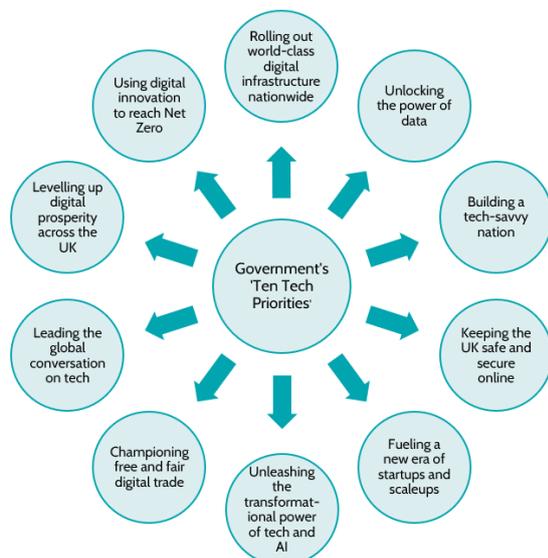
### National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

The government has set out its strategy to deliver high quality, reliable digital infrastructure that works across the UK, recognising the economic, social and well-being benefits that fast, reliable digital connectivity can deliver.

Around 20% of premises in the UK are expected to be uncommercial for the market to deliver gigabit-capable broadband. The £5 billion UK Gigabit Programme will subsidise roll-out to these areas, and in particular support rural areas which tend to have a higher proportion of uncommercial premises, due to remoteness, smaller clusters of premises, and resultant costs of infrastructure.

The Strategy also sets out how the Government will support mobile connectivity, particularly focusing on the delivery of high-quality 4G mobile coverage in rural areas and supporting demonstration projects showing how 5G technology has the ability transform the lives of consumers and businesses.

In March 2021, the Government unveiled its 'Ten Tech Priorities' that will underpin the UK Digital Strategy:



### Superfast South Yorkshire

Established in 2014 to deliver faster broadband to areas where it had not been commercially viable to invest, Superfast South Yorkshire is a partnership of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Local Authorities.

In Phase 1 by September 2019, almost £27m of funding had been invested to reach an additional 95,000 premises. The second phase is currently in delivery and has brought gigabit capable broadband on the Openreach network to an additional 5,000 premises so far.

The success of this partnership has given South Yorkshire a strong foundation to build on.

### SYMCA Strategic Economic Plan 2021 – 2041 (SEP)

The SEP sets out what needs to be done to grow the economy and transform the lives and wellbeing of people, focused on the communities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield.

Digital technology and connectivity is recognised as a key driver of economic growth and quality of life, with digital infrastructure critical to realising our future ambitions.

The Covid19 lockdown periods have shown the importance of good digital connectivity, particularly in relation to enabling people to effectively work from home and access both public health, education and other services online. A positive consequence of this has been a reduction in travelling and resultant air quality and carbon emissions. Improved digital infrastructure / connectivity could therefore be an important contributor to meeting net zero reduction targets related to transport and mobility.

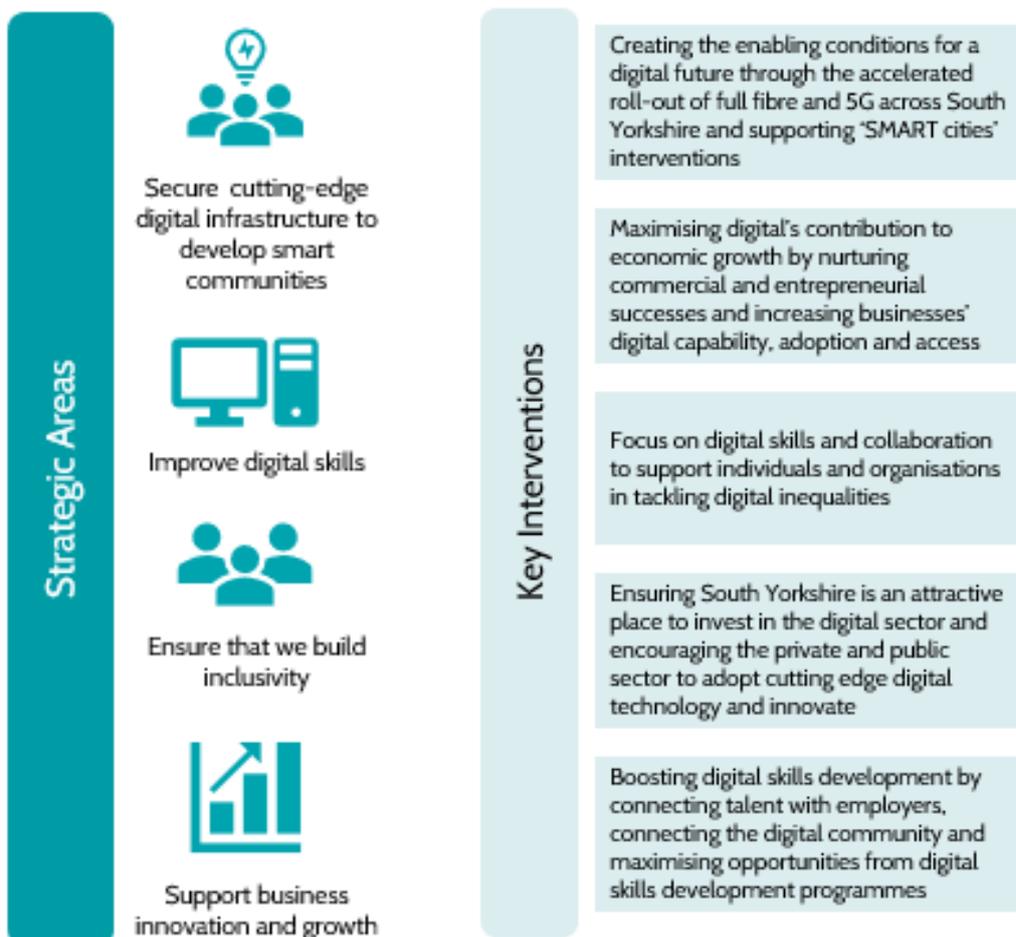
”  
“ The ambition for digital set out in the SEP is that:

*‘Sheffield City Region [South Yorkshire] will be recognised as one of the best-connected city regions in the country where coverage, choice, and speed of communication stays ahead of demand and where there is an abundance of multi-skilled, digitally mature individuals to cater for every industry’s business needs. Enhanced digital connectivity and skills enable people to use digital applications and solutions to improve their lives and to sustain, grow, and create new businesses.’*

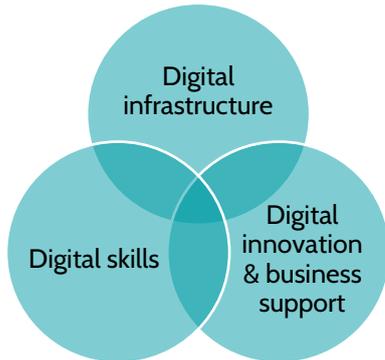
”  
“ Significant economic gains are possible if we can deploy the best infrastructure for digital connectivity.

”  
“ We will enhance SCR’s digital ecosystem by ensuring the supply of ‘hard’ infrastructure (full fibre and 5G) across the whole of the SCR [South Yorkshire], some areas of which still do not have 4G connectivity. This will likely require public interventions where market failure exists to accelerate and bring forward delivery.

To achieve this ambition, the SEP outlines the strategic areas of focus and key interventions.



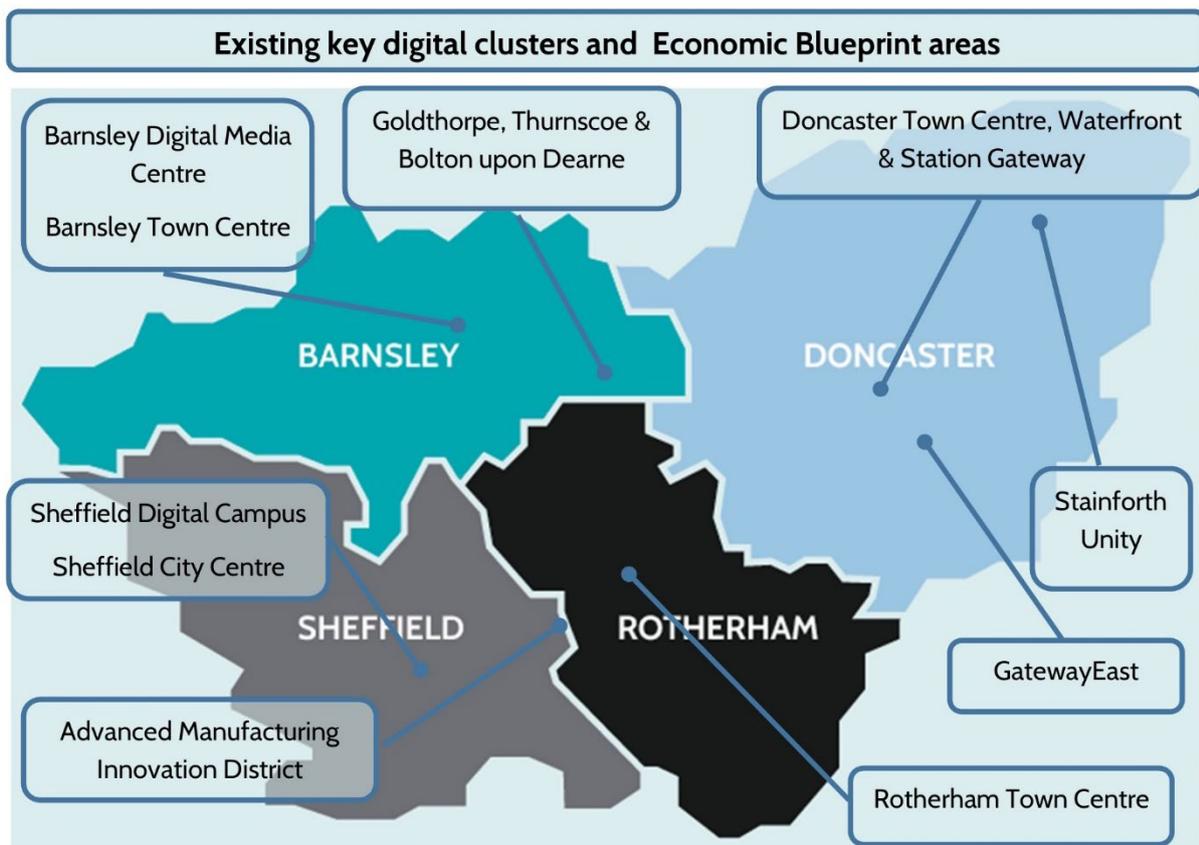
The SYDIS, and this related Delivery Plan, is part of, and covers, one of three key areas of activity critical to providing a strategic approach to addressing the digital agenda across South Yorkshire in an integrated way to deliver the SEP's digital ambitions. The other two elements being **digital skills** and **digital innovation and business support**.





**Made Smarter**  
*'Made Smarter', a national programme rolled out in South Yorkshire by SYMCA, offers funding, consultancy, training and support to empower manufacturers to adopt new digital tools and will provide digital upskilling and leadership development, as well as connecting technology developers and manufacturers.*

Taking a co-ordinated approach will help support existing digital clusters to grow and develop, and contribute to the investment targeted at the SEPs Key Growth Areas where Economic Blueprints are being developed.



## South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy

The SYDIS builds on the SEP by taking an evidence-based approach to identifying the digital infrastructure challenges faced by South Yorkshire, and developing a response recognising existing activity as well as future opportunities and intervention areas.

Key challenges that the SYDIS seeks to address include:

Around 170,000 premises in South Yorkshire (20% of total premises) are not scheduled to receive 'gigabit-capable' broadband by the industry over the next 5 years.

To build on the success of the Superfast South Yorkshire (SFSY) broadband programme in now rolling-out gigabit capable broadband connectivity throughout South Yorkshire.

A more consistent regional approach for 5G including ensuring local businesses are aware of and exploit 5G opportunities.

Addressing digital poverty and the affordability of broadband services, which remain barriers to social and economic inclusion.

The SYDIS sets out a clear and simple vision for South Yorkshire, supported by five goals which guide and inform the actions, interventions and resources which are required to deliver the strategy.

- Tackling digital poverty and ensuring we have a digitally skilled workforce demands innovation and is an opportunity for South Yorkshire to set the national benchmark.
- 5G fills in the enterprise capability gaps left out by 4G, so whilst its Gigabit speed capability is being marketed to consumers, the real opportunity is the business market.
- There is interest across the region in the potential of the Internet of Things (IOT).
- The lack of local data centre capability will become a consideration as more companies close their own data centres in favour of 'Cloud' offerings and proximity to data centres becomes an increasingly important factor.
- 'Lighthouse' projects will play a key role to anchor and promote innovation.
- Delivery of the Digital Infrastructure Strategy will be a complex task.
- The speed of change in the digital sector requires an acceleration of decision making and intervention.

### Vision



For South Yorkshire to have:

**A Gigabit digital infrastructure that accelerates new social and economic possibilities for all the people and businesses of South Yorkshire**

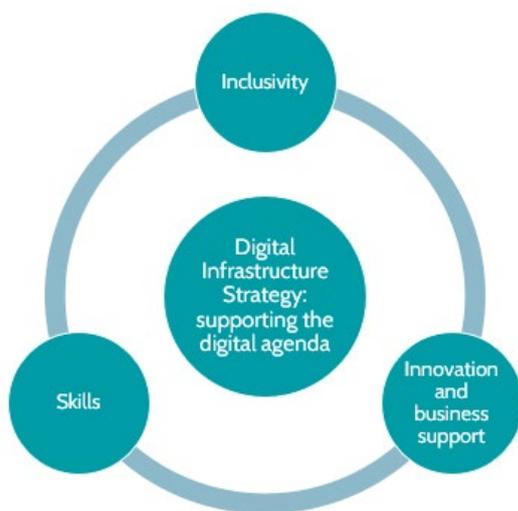
### Goals



1. Ensure South Yorkshire's superfast broadband and 4G success is repeated for Gigabit broadband and 5G.
2. Support the social and economic priorities set out in the SEP.
3. Form an inclusive platform that enables better outcomes for all sections of society.
4. Be supported by the Governance and data-driven approach needed to maximise the digital potential of South Yorkshire.
5. Position South Yorkshire as a leading centre of *applied* digital innovation and adoption.

Taking forward this Delivery Plan in isolation will not deliver our ambitions for South Yorkshire; it is vital that a co-ordinated approach is taken which ensures that activity is tied into:

- the digital skills agenda, growing the digital skills of our residents and workforce;
- supporting business innovation and growth, enhanced digital infrastructure to secure the productivity improvements that the application of digital technology could bring; and
- working to support and enable digital inclusion to widen participation and build capability for all.



**Fibre in Water**

*Yorkshire Water, with a consortium of partners, has secured up to £3.2m of*

*Government funding to pilot an innovative Fibre in Water scheme, delivering advanced broadband and mobile services via drinking water mains. The first trial of its kind in the UK, it will improve digital connectivity at The Seam (Barnsley's digital campus), Dodworth Business Park and poorly served communities in Penistone.*



South Yorkshire is well positioned to have confidence in the Market to deliver the gigabit broadband, and mobile coverage the region needs supported by our enabling interventions. We will leverage Government Gigabit investments to connect 'hard to reach' premises across our region and ensure nobody is left behind.



Digital poverty is a poorly understood national challenge that the MCA should seek to provide leadership in. With targeted investment and focussed governance, the MCA could become a digital leader with an adventurous programme firmly connected to better outcomes for the people and businesses of South Yorkshire.



5G provides opportunities for a differentiated approach that is supportive of the manufacturing and wider business community. A closure of the data centre gap and judicious rebranding of the digital sector with important clusters, for example, around the Sheffield ring road, The Seam - Barnsley's Digital Media Centre, and other areas will bring structure to the growth ambition for this important area of the economy.

### 3. Delivering the Plan

The actions and interventions to deliver on the SYDIS vision and goals are set out below, along with resource implications and timescales.

Significant activity is already underway to implement the SYDIS and further actions and interventions are identified, focused on those activities where market failure exists, and public interventions are required to deliver or stimulate the 'market' to deliver the Strategy.

As well as tangible projects and interventions, it is recognised that further research, data and development activity is required. As such, the outcomes of actions which improve our evidence base and understanding will inform the implementation of other existing actions and the development of future interventions.

Short term / priority actions are identified, where interventions are envisaged over the next 2 years (2021 - 2023). Beyond this, actions are identified where resources could be deployed in the medium term.

Whilst these actions set out how we will seek to deliver the SYDIS, the digital sector is fast-paced and therefore a certain amount of flexibility will be required to respond to changes and gaps in the market, and to future Government (Department of Culture, Media and Sport) interventions. As such it will be important to ensure the Delivery Plan is kept under review and updated on a regular basis.

#### Strong foundations

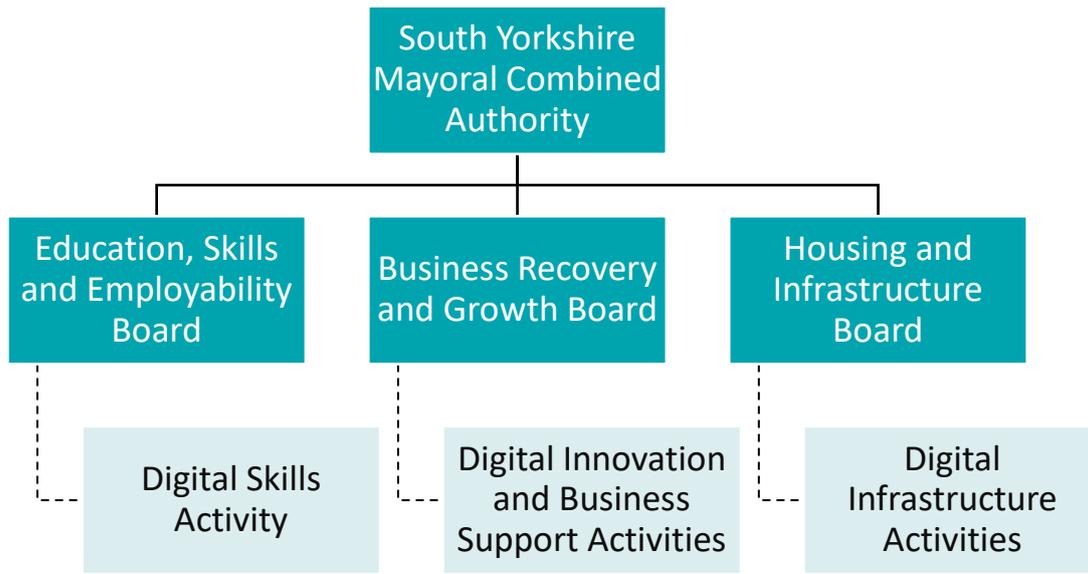
Whilst there are challenges in delivering on the Vision and Goals set out in the SYDIS, we are building on strong foundations:

- Superfast South Yorkshire has complemented commercial rollout and delivered an excellent foundation of 98%+ availability of 30Mbps+ superfast broadband.
- Fibre build by CityFibre is in progress and Openreach have committed to fibre upgrade more of its exchange areas by 2024. Virgin have upgraded their cable network to fibre speeds and operators new to the region are indicating a willingness to invest.
- Ofcom report near 99% availability of 4G and all four major operators are supporting 5G in Sheffield/South Yorkshire, which is on track for regional 5G coverage to be in line with other major conurbations.
- There are significant clusters of digital businesses in Sheffield and beyond, and the success of Barnsley's Digital Media Centre (DMC) points to the digital potential of the region. Innovation clusters such as the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMID) are well positioned to exploit the enterprise features that are key to 5G.

## Governance

Implementing the SYDIS requires strong leadership and a collaborative approach, with partnership working between the MCA, Local Authorities, DCMS, digital infrastructure providers and service operators, and other funding and delivery partners.

It is also recognised that implementation needs to be progressed alongside and in dialogue with the digital skills and digital innovation and business support agendas, in order to deliver all the digital ambitions of the SEP.



## Funding and resources

Taking forward this Delivery Plan will require resources, both to assist the market to deliver and also to support activities to secure and exploit additional funding opportunities.

Indicative cost levels are identified wherever possible against each action; however, further work will be required in some areas to identify and refine costs.

The identified actions and interventions are estimated to cost £1.88m, with around £1.12m of this required to deliver the short-term (next 2 years), priority interventions.

### Delivering the South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy

#### Estimated costs:

Short term actions (yrs 1&2)	£1.12m
Medium term actions (Yrs 3-5)	£0.76m
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.88m</b>



### **Project Gigabit**

*In July 2021 government announced that between £61m - £103m funding has been allocated to South Yorkshire to provide gigabit capable digital infrastructure and connectivity, currently estimated to be up to 56,800 premises which the 'Market' would otherwise not be providing over the next 5 years.*

There are dedicated relevant digital skills within the MCA / Local Authorities partnership to support delivery, which will be retained. However, a number of actions will require specialist advice to complement partnership expertise.

Consideration is being given to the opportunities provided by the 'clawback' funding from the Superfast South Yorkshire broadband programme being returned to the MCA. This 'clawback' will provide a significant funding source over the next 5 years to support the implementation of the SYMCA digital agenda, including the SYDIS along with activities related to the digital skills and digital innovation and business support agendas.

The MCA will determine how the 'clawback' funding will be deployed, informed by the MCA Housing and Infrastructure Board, MCA Education, Skills and Employability Board and MCA Business Recovery and Growth Board in relation to the digital infrastructure, digital skills, and digital innovation and business support agendas respectively.

There is an estimation of the amount of clawback that will be available to the MCA to support these digital agendas, but actual amounts will need to be confirmed, as will the bi-annual payment

schedules. Importantly, clawback will be received as 'capital' funding and, therefore, alternative 'revenue' funding will need to be identified to support those priority delivery activities in this Plan that require revenue funding to implement.

The MCA will need to consider the capital and revenue funding proposals that the Housing and Infrastructure Board recommends to the MCA in due course to implement this Delivery Plan, as part of the MCAs budget setting processes. The decision will be for the MCA Board.

## Actions and interventions

### Overarching Key Priority Action / Intervention

The following are identified as key priority actions which underpin delivery of the SYDIS and support actions to implement Goals 1 to 5.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
The SYMCA and Local Authorities to form successful and productive relationships with all key digital infrastructure providers to seek to ensure as much gigabit capable coverage as possible by 2025. Specifically, prioritising additional actions and interventions to address the c170,000 premises gigabit capable coverage gap (based on current projections - to be refined through further data analysis).	MCA/LAs	H	This will be ongoing and build on Local Authority partnership approaches. It will involve setting up a schedule of regular meetings with each provider, as well as day-to-day contacts as and when required.  The existing BMBC SFSY partnership digital team will be repurposed to form the South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy Team.	Successful partnership approaches in place.  Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage and reducing digital poverty
Develop an ongoing communications plan about the development and delivery of the South Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Strategy and associated activities.	MCA	L	To be developed using existing team resources in liaison with the MCA Communications Team, and kept under review. May include commissioning some external support if required.	Improved visibility and profile of the digital agenda
* Indicative costs are provided: 0 = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and £150,000. High = over £150,000.				

The specific activities to address each of the five Goals are set out below, indicating in green whether those activities are for action in the short term (next 1-2 years) or the medium term (2-5 years).

**Goal 1: Ensure South Yorkshire’s Superfast Broadband and 4G success is repeated for Gigabit Broadband and 5G**

**How we will achieve this:**

- We will encourage and where appropriate enable all the commercial operators to deliver their planned network upgrades and new build in the South Yorkshire.
- We will work closely with DCMS to maximise the investment of ‘Project Gigabit’ in rural broadband programme spend in South Yorkshire.
- **4G:** We will work with mobile infrastructure providers to promote good mobile coverage across our rural communities.
- **5G:** We will work with the region’s businesses and Leaders in the adoption of 5G to drive sustainable advantage and competitiveness.
- We will open up our public sector assets based on a robust due diligence process and make it easier for operators to build their networks with our consistent ‘Barrier Busting’ policies.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Provide complementary interventions where appropriate to incentivise or encourage industry to accelerate delivery of gigabit-capable broadband	Y		LAs	To be determined	This will be an ongoing task responding to challenges and opportunities as they arise. Initial projects will be identified and developed over the next 12 months. Costs will therefore be unknown until further analysis undertaken and opportunities identified.  Part of the Lighthouse Projects’ action under Goal 5	Successful partnership approaches in place.  Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage
Map the digital infrastructure industry providers, including smaller providers, and develop a holistic and continuous engagement programme.	Y		MCA	0	This action links to the two ‘Overarching Key Priority Action / Interventions’ and will be undertaken within existing team resources	Successful partnership approaches in place.
Enhance ongoing dialogue / relationships with both major and	Y		MCA/LAs	0	This action links to the two ‘Overarching Key Priority	Successful partnership approaches in place.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
smaller local digital infrastructure suppliers, and identify and oversee consistent 'barrier busting' measures being put in place to support the industry infrastructure roll-out					Action / Interventions' and will be undertaken within existing team resources This action links to the two 'Overarching Key Priority Action / Interventions'	Supports maximising Gigabit coverage, and mobile coverage
Identify support requirements and secure the necessary officer resources to support the DCMS Project Gigabit (£61m - £103m) Programme in South Yorkshire.	Y		MCA	0	Further clarification required on extent of support required from MCA/LAs over the procurement stage (next 12 months) and the delivery phases thereafter (2023 onwards). Existing digital team to continue to provide advice and support to DCMS on the procurement phase. Medium-term resource position is therefore to be confirmed.	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage and reducing digital poverty
Map public assets: 1. Mapping of premises not scheduled for gigabit connectivity by 2025 to identify potential 'anchors' and utilise enabling public assets to support industry gigabit connectivity roll-outs. 2. Mapping of buildings and street furniture, to support further 4G and 5G coverage.	Y		MCA	L	Work is already underway, and further analysis will be required of assets data compiled in preparing the Strategy. Will be undertaken using existing team resources, with potentially commissioning some specific external support	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage broadband and mobile coverage, and reducing digital poverty  Provides up to date evidence to inform future actions

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Close and monitor the SFSY Programme contracts.	Y		BMBC/MCA	0	Existing digital team resources will undertake this role.  Superfast Phase 3 contract - forecast completion June 22 with a 6-9 months closedown process.	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage and reducing digital poverty
Consider a 'drive by' rural mobile survey across South Yorkshire to map the true state of rural mobile coverage, identify gaps, and seek industry resolutions.		Y	MCA	L	To be considered including the potential options for undertaking the survey accurately and comprehensively.	Supports maximising mobile coverage, and reducing digital poverty  Provides up to date evidence to inform future actions
Undertake periodic 'Market' engagements to track progress by the industry in rolling-out and upgrading mobile coverage.		Y	MCA/LAs	0	This will be undertaken using existing team resources, including analysis on coverage roll-out data sources noted under Goal 4.	Supports maximising mobile coverage, and reducing digital poverty
Work with Mobile Network Operators and Local Authorities to facilitate the appropriate location of new infrastructure, encouraging the sharing of infrastructure wherever possible, and educating decision makers and the public.		Y	MCA/LAs	0	This action links to the two 'Overarching Key Priority Action / Interventions' and will be undertaken using existing team resources.	Supports maximising mobile coverage, and reducing digital poverty  Provides up to date evidence to inform future actions
Explore potential to establish a "GigaHub" project approach.		Y	MCA/LAs	M	Would require commissioning specialist	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					external expertise to investigate and develop proposals.	and reducing digital poverty
* Indicative costs are provided: 0 = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and £150,000. High = over £150,000.						

## Goal 2: Support the social and economic priorities set out in the SEP

### How we will achieve this:

- As a foundation layer we will work with digital infrastructure providers to achieve ubiquitous Gigabit Broadband and 4G coverage across South Yorkshire and 5G where it is needed.
- We will seek to close the datacentre gap, reinforcing the success of the Region as a place to do digital business and 'future proofing' the region to cater for the anticipated growth in businesses utilising cloud infrastructure.
- We will seek to leverage 5G's unique enterprise capabilities (low delay, reliability, security, support for scale sensing networks) to the advantage of South Yorkshire's significant manufacturing sector.
- We will engage with South Yorkshire's major private sector organisations to leverage their digital know-how and seek mutually beneficial public-private sector outcomes.
- We will augment the growing narrative around the region's digital sector, business start-ups, innovation, and creation of 'lighthouse' innovation projects.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Design and develop a demand stimulation programme for existing SME businesses and new start-ups aligned with and supporting gigabit connectivity roll-outs. Includes exploring funding a "top up" of the Gigabit broadband voucher system to further incentivise rural deployment.	Y		MCA	H	Would require significant resources to support roll-out of a programme.  Consideration needs to be given to potential opportunities to link in with related Project Gigabit activities.	Successful partnership approaches in place.  Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage  Supports improvements to productivity and competitiveness of businesses
Continue to provide advice on connectivity for residents and businesses across South Yorkshire, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural areas</li> <li>• Business connectivity issues</li> </ul>	Y		MCA/LAs	O	To be undertaken using existing team resources.	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage, and mobile coverage

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community / Third sector connectivity issues</li> <li>Multiple Dwelling Units</li> </ul>						
Establish a Digital Forum comprising representatives from the public sector, local businesses and digital infrastructure providers	Y		MCA	L	This will be taken forward as part of the wider MCA digital agenda and cover digital infrastructure, digital skills, and digital innovation and business support activities. Some project funding may be required to support the Digital Forum activities	<p>Will support implementation of actions within the DIS, as well as help develop potential future actions</p> <p>Supports establishing South Yorkshire as a centre of digital excellence</p>
Commission activity to develop a South Yorkshire Digital Branding Strategy for the digital industry sector.		Y	MCA	L	Initial task is to scope this proposition in liaison with MCA Communications Team and LAs.	<p>Improved visibility and profile of the digital agenda</p> <p>Supports establishing South Yorkshire as a centre of digital excellence</p>
Commission research with the AMRC on future 5G business needs in South Yorkshire and explore the opportunities for accelerating 5G adoption by the manufacturing sector, including the potential business case, technical and resourcing requirements for the '5G in a box' innovation model.		Y	MCA/AMRC	M	Initial task would require commissioning external digital expertise to engage with local industries and develop viable propositions for further consideration, and to develop the	Supports use of 5G technology to improve productivity and competitiveness of businesses

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					detailed proposals and business case.	
Commission research to identify the extent of existing and future datacentre capability, and test viability, market appetite and business needs for future additional edge datacentre infrastructure.		Y	MCA	M	This would require commissioning external specialist expertise.	Provide up to date data and evidence to inform future actions
* Indicative costs are provided: 0 = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and £150,000. High = over £150,000.						

**Goal 3: Form an inclusive platform that enables better outcomes for all sections of society.**

**How we will achieve this:**

- We will address the data gap to better understand the specific digital poverty challenges in South Yorkshire.
- We will drive and leverage social value upside from our digital activities and as a bi-product of our support for operators building their new networks.
- We will explore new models for social connectivity, exploring new service delivery options (digital health and government services) and seeking to quantify the better outcomes that digital connectivity can deliver.
- We will explore digital infrastructure opportunities to support the growth of digital health and welfare, linking back to other regional initiatives.
- We will consider how our site assets can better serve our communities to either anchor operator builds into less commercially attractive areas or to provide digital centres/hubs in their own right, offering connectivity and help.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Commission research to fill the information gap relating to the real extent of digital poverty in South Yorkshire, and the actions to address this.	Y		MCA/Uni's	L	Discussions are ongoing with the region's Universities to undertake this research for South Yorkshire	Up to date evidence regarding digital poverty which will inform future actions / interventions
Engage Local Authorities, Housing Associations and the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre (AMRC) to maximise digital inclusivity within lower income tenants and explore the opportunity for 'Social Connectivity' pilots.		Y	MCA/LAs	M	Initial task would be to scope the brief for this project in liaison with LAs, Housing Associations and the AMRC to confirm the precise needs and opportunities for the project.  Future actions will depend upon the outcome of any pilot projects, but could	Reduce digital poverty, increase the ability of residents to access digital technology, and improve skills and employability

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					include supporting the roll-out and expansion of successful projects in collaboration with commercial providers	
Commission joint work with health and care providers to explore digital infrastructure opportunities and requirements to support the growth of digital health and welfare.		Y	MCA / Health Bodies	M	Initial discussions required with health care providers across South Yorkshire to explore the opportunities and challenges of this project.	To reduce digital poverty and to harness the benefits of digital infrastructure to deliver improved social outcomes
* Indicative costs are provided: O = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and up to (and including) £150,000. High = over £150,000.						

#### Goal 4: Governance and data-driven approach to maximise the digital potential of South Yorkshire

##### How we will achieve this:

- We will build on the success of the Superfast South Yorkshire programme, creating the necessary governance structure to ensure that our infrastructure agenda is effectively coordinated and compliments the delivery of the wider SEP digital agenda and ambitions.
- We will create a centre of digital excellence for the region, allowing South Yorkshire to respond in a co-ordinated way to Government initiatives and to engage consistently with operators and other private sector stakeholders.
- We will make use of wider public and private sector specific digital and technology skills to advise and add depth and challenge to our digital infrastructure programme.
- We will make it easy for operators to build their networks with consistent 'Barrier Busting' policies adopted across the region, drawing on best practice from Local Authorities both within and beyond South Yorkshire.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Commission and utilise consistent data sources to inform policy, delivery, and funding bids and programmes'	Y		MCA	L	Annual licence for Point Topic data obtained by the MCA and provides quarterly updates of coverage. Analysis will be undertaken using existing team resources, but ongoing dialogue with industry providers will be needed to confirm progress and check actuals.	Up to date data and evidence to inform monitoring, decision making and future actions / interventions
Adopt consistent 'best practice' planning policies and 'barrier busting' approaches/measures across South Yorkshire to support and accelerate industry roll-outs.	Y		LAs	0	This will be undertaken using existing team resources and local authority officer support. This is ongoing in partnership with the local authorities, building on	Successful partnership approaches in place. Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage, and mobile coverage

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					the positive actions already in place by authorities.	
Continue to provide consistent expert strategic advice and support to Local Planning Authorities and developers on digital infrastructure requirements within new developments as well as mobile telecommunications requirements and discharge of planning conditions.	y		BMBC/MCA	L	<p>Since 2019 nearly 15,000 new-build properties have benefitted from a process to place planning conditions on major new residential and commercial developments for gigabit-capable, full fibre broadband infrastructure and connections.</p> <p>This will be undertaken using existing team resources with potentially a need to commission some specific external expertise.</p>	Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage, and mobile coverage
<p>* Indicative costs are provided: 0 = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and up to (and including) £150,000. High = over £150,000.</p>						

## Goal 5: Position South Yorkshire as a leading centre of applied digital innovation

### How we will achieve this:

- We will seek to integrate and ensure that our digital infrastructure activities contribute to supporting the development of the SEP innovation clusters such as by creating 'lighthouse' projects reflective of our growing digital capability.
- We will seek to secure Government innovation funding awards by pre-preparing bids related to the SEP and our Digital Infrastructure Strategy.
- We will work with public and private sector partners to promote the development of Internet of Things network(s) across South Yorkshire to support public and private sector 'sensing' network ambitions and as a platform for innovation in our growing digital sector.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
Proactively work with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on future digital initiatives to capture funding and delivery opportunities for South Yorkshire, including demonstration pilots.'	Y		MCA	M	Ongoing. This action links to the two 'Overarching Key Priority Action / Interventions.' Will be undertaken using existing team resources, but a project budget will be required to support development of individual funding bids.	To secure additional funding and delivery opportunities  Successful partnership approaches in place.  Supports maximising Gigabit capable coverage, and mobile coverage
Identify 'Lighthouse projects' which can help deliver new local job opportunities and encourage and support new innovations / projects such as Yorkshire Water's proposals to deploy fibre in water to access poorly served communities.	Y		MCA/LAs	L	This action links to the two 'Overarching Key Priority Action / Interventions'. Initial exploratory work required to identify new project opportunities and work with partners to develop the scheme business cases. The Fibre in	Support an increase in the number of people working in digital related occupations.  Support delivery of innovative projects which may improve knowledge, reduce
		Y		M		

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					water bid from Yorkshire Water / Arcadis is progressing with DCMS.  Will be undertaken using existing resources although a project budget will be required to support development of projects.	digital poverty, and inform future actions / interventions.
Explore the opportunities for rolling-out of the pilot digital flood warning system to the whole of the South Yorkshire flood catchment.	Y		DMBC/LAs	L	This action links to a priority action in the draft South Yorkshire Flood Catchment Plan	Provide a real-time digitised flood warning system to improve the targeting of actions and resources in response to flood events across South Yorkshire
Capture relevant recommendations for Gigabit and 5G infrastructure in Economic Blueprints prepared for key growth areas identified in the SEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheffield City Centre</li> <li>• Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District,</li> <li>• Barnsley Town Centre</li> <li>• Rotherham Town Centre</li> <li>• Doncaster Town Centre, Waterfront &amp; Station Gateway</li> <li>• Stainforth Unity (Doncaster)</li> <li>• Goldthorpe, Thurnscoe &amp; Bolton upon DearneGatewayEast (Doncaster Sheffield Airport)</li> </ul>	Y		MCA/LAs	O	This action can be taken forward immediately using existing resources. The MCA Executive is already working with Local Authorities and other partners to agree the Economic Blueprints and develop investment packages to support their delivery.  GatewayEast Economic Blueprint has been finalised; however, the opportunity to review and include relevant	Successful partnership approaches in place.  Ensure appropriate cross references and linkages across strategies to provide a comprehensive approach to delivering the Digital Infrastructure Strategy.

Action / Activity / Intervention	Priority / Short Term	Medium Term	Delivery lead	Indicative costs *	Scheme status / expected or indicative completion date	Indicative outcomes
					recommendations around Gigabit and 5G infrastructure will be considered.	
Work with public sector partners and utilities to identify and develop business cases, where applicable, to develop Internet of Things / Smart Cities pilot systems.		Y	MCA	M	Initial exploratory work required to identify and map out relevant needs and opportunities	Successful partnership approaches in place.  Supports use of digital technology to improve productivity and competitiveness of businesses
* Indicative costs are provided: 0 = activity undertaken within existing team resources. Low = up to £60,000. Medium = between £60,000 and up to (and including) £150,000. High = over £150,000.						

## 4. Measuring success

A number of the interventions set out in this Delivery Plan are already underway, whilst others are identified as short-term priorities (1-2 years), and further actions will be taken in the medium term (3-5 years).

With the funding sources to implement the Plan not yet confirmed, activities and costs need to be considered in tandem with the MCAs budget setting process, in order to prioritise and align activities with the emerging understanding of the likely funding available in future years.

Some interventions, such as those which improve our data, evidence and understanding, will inform the development of future actions.

Recognising this and the range of activities needed to deliver the SYDIS, it will take time to implement and the full impact may not be felt immediately.

The SYDIS includes a number of targets for each Goal to measure the success of implementing the Strategy. These are set out below.

These targets reflect the fact that the SYDIS seeks to deliver a package of outcomes that are relatively straightforward to measure (for example Gigabit capable broadband availability) and others that are not (such as tackling digital poverty, where there is a national paucity of local evidence about digital exclusion).

As our data, knowledge and understanding improves, this will enable the intervention strategy to be refined over time, and new targets to be set, if appropriate.

In addition, the SEP outlines a number of indicators and targets to help measure progress against the outcomes on a regular basis<sup>1</sup>. Implementation of the SYDIS will most directly contribute to the digital connectivity indicator below but will also indirectly contribute to a number of other indicators and outcomes.



<sup>1</sup> The SEP outcomes and metrics are 'live' and will be reviewed over time.

Goal	Targets
Ensure South Yorkshire's Superfast Broadband and 4G success is repeated for Gigabit Broadband and 5G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 95% availability of Gigabit Broadband by 2025</li> <li>• 95% mobile coverage, closing rural gaps</li> </ul>
Support the social and economic priorities set out in the SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data centre parity with other equivalent urban centres in place by 2025</li> <li>• Establish a South Yorkshire Digital Forum to support and advise on implementation of the Strategy</li> </ul>
Form an inclusive platform that enables better outcomes for all sections of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local solution in place for tracking levels of digital poverty and impact of interventions across South Yorkshire</li> <li>• To develop and implement social value pilot projects</li> </ul>
Be supported by the Governance and data-driven approach needed to maximise the digital potential of South Yorkshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify appropriate resources to implement the Digital Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>• Put in place comprehensive digital data provision and monitoring by the end of 2022</li> </ul>
Position South Yorkshire as a leading centre of applied digital innovation and adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish South Yorkshire as a centre of digital excellence to pilot new digital infrastructure innovations and models</li> <li>• Roll out 5G pilots with South Yorkshire businesses by 2025</li> <li>• Promote a South Yorkshire Internet of Things network</li> </ul>

SEP indicator	Outcome	Data	2041 target
Digital connectivity	A higher proportion of our region is covered by both full fibre and 5G broadband	Percentage of full fibre coverage of residential and business premises. Weekly network rollouts modelled by Think Broadband based on Openreach data. 8.4% (2020)	Equal to UK level



South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority  
11 Broad Street West  
Sheffield  
South Yorkshire  
S1 2BQ

0114 220 3400  
[enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk)

