



Northumberland
County Council

Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator
(DCIA)
Pilot Project

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iNorthumberland
Better connectivity for Home & Business

DCIA Pilot Project

- One of 8 national pilot projects funded by DCMS
- Partners: North of Tyne Combined Authority, Northumberland County Council, NorthTyneside Borough Council, Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside Council, Sunderland City Council
- Funding £496,916

Overarching Project Aims

To drive improved connectivity and 5G key to transform the public sector in the North East and help address deprivation, inequality, and poor health outcomes, and to drive economic growth, sustainability and inward investment.

This is vitally important to the future of our region and an essential part of enabling remote working, connected public services, and marketing this region as a forward looking, investable place to live, study and work.

Why is the pilot project needed?

We experience a slow pace of wireless infrastructure deployment as Telecoms firms find it difficult and time consuming to find information about structures or locations suitable for hosting network equipment – such as its location, physical dimensions, proximity to the street or access to a power source.

So what are we doing?

The primary aim of the DCIA project is to make LA asset information visible to commercial operators using a digital asset management platform.

This will include Street lights – c.160,000; Public buildings– c.1,400; CCTV columns – c.160 and parcels of land.

There is also potential to include assets from other partners such as bus shelters (c.2000), other street furniture.

Streamlining the process

In addition to the digital platform, we are seeking to:

1. Understand current processes in order to standardise the approach across the participating LA's and make them more user friendly
2. Provide standardised commercial agreements which, based on best practice examples and industry feedback, will remove the burden of bespoke agreements for every deployment
3. Provide easy to follow, ECC compliant guidelines for calculating the commercial value of asset for rental enabling each Local Authority to transact with commercial operators easier and faster, using a predefined set of transparent, fair principles aligned to their own geographic location and asset types.

In a nutshell – how will DCIA Pilot meet the aims

- A redesigned process that makes it easier and quicker for operators to know which assets are available and what types of equipment these assets can take
- An improved user-experience, from both a Local Authority and Operator perspective.
- Continued internal upskilling and barrier busting capacity in Local Authorities to build a sustainable approach

For further information about DCIA

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