**ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group update September 2018**

The ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group is now up and running and supporting the LGA’s People and Places Board’s elected member sub-group of the same name, chaired by Cllr Mark Hawthorne of Gloucestershire County Council. The ADEPT Working Group includes representatives from Herefordshire Council, Shropshire CC, Cambridgeshire CC, Kent CC, Wolverhampton Council, Northumberland CC, Gloucestershire CC and the LGA.

The Working Group has identified three key issues:

* Number of new build homes being built that aren’t fibre enabled;
* Future strategy for mobile – the disparity in coverage and how we find solutions to not and partial spots in rural areas, whilst understanding the needs of 5G deployment in urban areas;
* How thinking about fibre and mobile deployment need to come together to really drive the deployment of a world class digital infrastructure.

On the first of these, there has been some recent Government movement on the fibre to new builds policy. We are currently reviewing the implications of the recent Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review, which includes positive noises about new build, but we would still like to hear from councils about their experience and whether this is likely to have any impact on the ground.

A first outcome is likely to be an ADEPT / LGA Position Statement that celebrates the success to date of fixed broadband (where local authorities have led) and mobile deployment – whilst recognising the issues that still need to be overcome and key asks of Government.

The Working Group is in active discussions with OFCOM, the barrier-busting team in DCMS, Mobile UK (who represent Mobile Network Operators), British Standards Institute and a number of other related industry bodies.

Finally, it is worth noting that in July, DCMS published [A framework for UK fibre delivery: Street Works](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-for-uk-fibre-delivery-street-works). The document outlines best practice and advice for managing the street works process, and provides examples and includes a toolkit offering advice for local authorities and utilities wishing to collaborate in a cooperative working relationship. Recommendations have been drawn from insights, experiences and recommendations from local authority traffic and permitting managers, street works teams from telecom operators and contractors, the Joint Authorities Group UK, HAUC UK, Streetworks UK, BDUK, the Department for Transport, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It contains good practice examples from a wide range of ADEPT members.

For further information or to share issues and good practice please contact the Working Group Chair, Nigel Riglar: [nigel.riglar@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.riglar@gloucestershire.gov.uk)