

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Margate, showing a mix of residential areas, green spaces, and a large body of water (the sea) in the background. The image is partially obscured by a large orange triangle on the right and a dark blue triangle on the left.

EELGA Roundtable Discussion Digital Connectivity in the East of England Working and Delivering in Collaboration

July 2023

ASELA Digital Programme Principles:

- Sharing Insight
- Partnership – Public, Private & Voluntary Sectors
- Collaboration – Public Sector
- Value for Money
- Outcomes Based – Not Technology Based

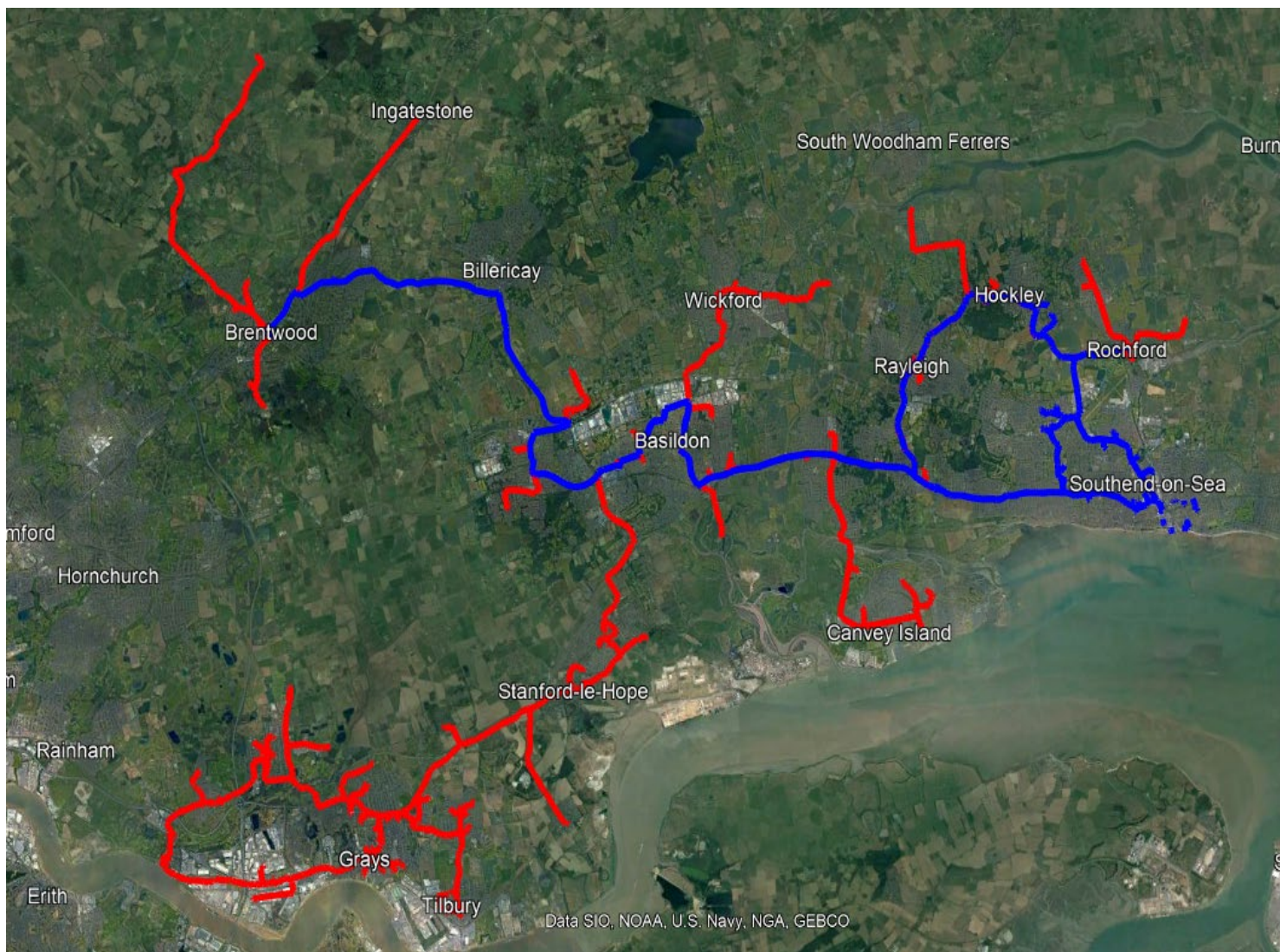
ASELA Key Objectives:

- **Full Fibre Coverage by 2025:** Through continued market stimulation and investment, leveraging the deployed full fibre network wherever possible
- **Expanding Mobile Coverage:** Engage with mobile operators to make South Essex attractive for investment, improve 4G coverage and capacity and expand 5G coverage, leveraging the investment in the full fibre network wherever possible
- **Improving Public Service:** Utilise our 200km of full fibre network for the benefit of the public sector across South Essex to drive down costs and open up innovation through shared infrastructure and shared digital services
- **Opening up Access for All:** Ensure digital inclusion across South Essex making 'decent' broadband not just available to all but affordable for all and ensuring everyone has the basic digital skills to make use of this connectivity

ASELA Digital Programme Outcomes through Collaboration:

- Secured £8M to deliver Full Fibre Digital Infrastructure across South Essex
- By September 2023 will have:
 - Rolled out over 250Km Dark Fibre infrastructure across South Essex
 - Connected circa 230 public and community buildings with Dark Fibre gigabit connectivity.
- Delivering a “Middle Layer” solution to simplify connectivity to the Dark Fibre Infrastructure and support a leveraging of investment.

ASELA Digital Infrastructure



ASELA Digital Programme Outcomes:

- Open Access Fibre Infrastructure being utilized by Alnets as transit – accelerating investment and deployment of full fibre across South Essex
- Publicly funded digital infrastructure being extended through private sector investment into business parks
- Working with Digital Essex to attract investment re fibre and mobile
- Working with Thurrock Sheltered Housing to leverage the Full Fibre investment
- Secured funding for and initiated an ASELA wide LoRaWAN Project

Public Sector:

- Created a public sector network across ASELA
- Connected over 200 Public Sector Sites including Schools, GP Practices, Fire Stations, Council Offices, Libraries which will benefit from a 15 year MRU to utilise the fibre free of charge
- Backhaul Links between each Civic Centre which are available for Council's to use – enable greater aggregation/shared services
- Reduced Costs – Thurrock £1M Saving
- Looking to leverage further opportunities

Sheltered Accommodation:

- Leverage full fibre connections to 29 Thurrock Council owned Sheltered Accommodation Sites
- Gov Roam Wi-Fi available in each site
- Focus on leveraging the fibre to support wellbeing and digital skills
- Working with the NHS re healthcare provision and messaging
- Working with the South Essex College – virtual lessons and courses (Yoga/Digital) addressed via digital screens
- Keen to share findings and experiences

Rural:

- Leverage Fibre Infrastructure – Open Access
- Mobile Backhaul
- Creation of Digital Community Hubs
 - Leverage Fibre Connections to 25 Village Halls and Community Centres
 - Through current procurement seeking to secure free or discounted connections
 - Working with Parish Council/Community Groups – development of a digital hub – support public service delivery, local business workspace, digital inclusion



IOT LoRaWAN Network:

- Secured Capital Funding from Highways England to deliver an IOT LoRaWAN Network across South Essex
- Working with both the Public and Private Sectors
- Procurement August 2023
- Contract Award September 2023
- Delivery October 2023 – September 2024 with a Phased Deployment

ASLEA LoRaWAN IOT Project Core Objectives:

- Not to be driven by technology but deliver a solution driven by outcomes
- To provide an Open Network, but one with a Carrier Class option to support specific user cases
- A network that promotes open data
- To inform public sector policy and strategy (data)
- To support the delivery of future public services
- To learn from other public sector successful projects, e.g. Norfolk
- To stimulate innovation and economic growth
- To share lessons learnt good and bad



Collaboration & Enablement:

- 6 Local Authorities Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend & Thurrock
- Parish Council
- Essex CC – Digital Essex
- DIZ – Digital Innovation Zone
- Thames Estuary Growth Board
- NHS
- Essex Fire & Rescue

Market Stimulation:

➤ **Delivery Partner MoU**

The ASELA Digital MOU 25% of commercial revenues generated from transit rental aligned to the spare capacity on the digital infrastructure is being re-invested into digital-related initiatives and projects for the direct benefit of the public sector across the region and the local community.

➤ **Not spot' identification**

Based on Think Broadband Data identified where coverage remains poor, and mapped data on a Google maps overlay alongside the deployed fibre infrastructure and the third party interconnection points to the fibre. This model has now been produced and is being shared with the market.

Outcome: Business Parks in Basildon benefit from over £1M investment.

➤ **Third party private investment**

The ASELA Digital Programme continues to engage with prospective fibre connectivity providers about leveraging the fibre roll-out to enable commercial fibre investment – business parks, new developments .

Shared Challenges – Observations:

- Market Information – Who and What do we Believe!!
- Private Sector Investment Plans – How Real??
- Managing Expectations – Businesses & Residents
- Market Pressure to adopt technology rather than it being outcome based
- Local Authorities culture and attitudes – Unintentional Silos
- Wayleaves

Shared Opportunities:

- Role EELGA, SOCITIM East of England
- LoRaWAN – East of England LoRaWAN Network
- Mobile Coverage – Asset Enablement and Shared Documentation
- IOT Business Cases – Support Collective Insight

ANY QUESTIONS?