Digital Connectivity Working Group Update

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Since the last update in September 2022, the ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group has met once virtually in December.

There were representatives from 10 local authorities across the country, LGA and LEP organisations.

The ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group continues to work closely with the Government's broadband delivery arm - Building Digital UK (BDUK)

The Group also received a presentation from Dan Heath (Connexin) about IoT and LORAWAN solutions for public services. Connexin enables enterprise and government to deploy end-to-end smart IoT solutions connecting any devices over any network and platforms. Questions were raised from the group specifically about smart utilities, smart cities, and also with regards to the actual network build.

There is a standing item on the agenda to get an update from Mobile UK about Shared Rural Network. However, with a last-minute notice, Gareth Elliott couldn't participate at the meeting due to illness.

The Group then continued with a discussion around the concerns about Project Gigabit specifically data access and availability. It is agreed to reconvening the 'Task and Finish Group' in the New Year. The purpose of the reinvigorated group would be to:

- Reflect on the Project Gigabit delivery offering a confidential, safe space to share experiences and concerns from different regions.
- Build on the engagement with DCMS barrier busting and policy teams. Especially around connecting social housing, MNO related issues and PSTN migration as key issues impacting local teams over the coming year.
- To share expertise and ideas about new types of broadband/mobile interventions.
- Act as a sounding board for each other wherever required.

The group's intention and motivation in undertaking this work is to remain engaged with colleagues at DCMS/BDUK to ensure that the infrastructure delivery programmes are best equipped and able to deliver positive outcomes at a local level.

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