



Buckinghamshire Council connects rural communities with ultrafast broadband

Buckinghamshire Council is committed to improving digital connectivity across the county, ensuring residents and businesses, regardless of location, have access to essential digital services.

Many rural communities in Buckinghamshire have long struggled with poor broadband coverage, limiting opportunities for education, business growth and social engagement.

Bridging the divide in rural Buckinghamshire

Rural communities in Buckinghamshire have historically faced challenges with poor broadband coverage, which has hindered access to key services such as education, business operations, and social engagement. Many village halls in these remote areas were unable to access high-speed broadband, and fibre rollouts were not expected to reach them until 2026 or beyond. This digital divide left local communities without the connectivity needed for activities such as virtual meetings, digital payments, and event streaming.

To address this issue, Buckinghamshire Council sought an innovative, cost-effective solution to provide high-speed broadband to these rural areas, with a focus on quickly bridging the connectivity gap and empowering local residents and businesses.

Innovative high-speed connectivity

CGI partnered with Buckinghamshire Council to deliver an innovative, hybrid broadband solution, combining Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite technology with terrestrial networks.

Working with specialist suppliers, we deployed ultrafast, secure and reliable broadband to village halls across Buckinghamshire. The solution provides:

- A robust and secure hybrid network – using Starlink LEO satellites
- A free-to-use public wireless service – enabling local communities to benefit directly



Benefits

The key benefits include:

- **Enabling digital services** – village halls can now take electronic payments, hold virtual meetings and stream music for dance classes
- **Enhancing community engagement** – reliable broadband allows rural communities to organise and host more events
- **Supporting local industries** – improved connectivity benefits agriculture, utilities and manufacturing in remote locations
- **Bridging the digital divide** – connectivity ensures rural residents and businesses can access the same opportunities as urban areas



- High-speed connectivity – where fibre was not available
- Immediate broadband access – rather than waiting for long-term fibre deployment
- A scalable and portable solution – capable of rapid deployment in other remote areas

Further results

Through this collaboration, Buckinghamshire's rural communities are no longer left behind in terms of digital access. The traditional process of rolling out rural broadband can take years, but this hybrid solution was deployed in a matter of weeks. By focusing on rapid deployment and cost-effective solutions, Buckinghamshire Council is taking decisive steps toward realising its vision of a digitally inclusive county.

This project represents a key element of Buckinghamshire Council's broader strategy to ensure that all communities, regardless of geography, can harness the power of digital connectivity. The success of this initiative builds on the experience of CGI's award-winning work in Norfolk, where a similar rural broadband rollout received the 'Access Innovation Award' at the 2023 Connected Britain Awards and was shortlisted for the 'Fixed Network Evolution Award' at the GloTel Awards in 2024.

A sustainable and scalable solution for the future

This deployment also aligns with Buckinghamshire Council's long-term objectives to promote sustainable, innovative solutions that contribute to the county's growth and prosperity. The hybrid broadband solution is not just a quick fix but a scalable model that can be adapted to address similar connectivity challenges across other rural areas in the county and beyond.

To learn more about how CGI can help improve digital connectivity in your region, contact us today.

“Digital connectivity plays a vital role in both the future prosperity of Buckinghamshire and in enhancing the everyday lives of our residents. Working alongside CGI, we have developed an innovative and carefully considered solution to extend and improve connectivity across the region - with a strong focus on reaching communities that have traditionally been more difficult to serve.”

Councillor Martin Tett, Leader of the Council (at the time of deployment)

About CGI

Insights you can act on

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