



DIGITAL Tameside Council

Tameside Digital Infrastructure Cooperative

The Tameside Digital Infrastructure Cooperative (TDIC) brings together public and private sector organisations to create and share new digital infrastructure in and around Tameside. The cooperative offers members wholesale access to fibre and exchange point facilities allowing them to build and operate advanced digital connectivity services. Public sector members are using TDIC facilities to improve services and save costs. Private sector members are using TDIC facilities to create advanced Internet and telecommunications services for sale to businesses and consumers in Tameside. Network builders and investors can use over 40km of fibre spine network to make better use of investment funds and accelerate deployment.

Tameside Council is working with partner organisations to build a new, advanced digital infrastructure to serve public sector, businesses and citizens. The 'thin layer model' pioneered in Tameside facilitates rapid deployment of new, 'full fibre' infrastructure, while avoiding some of the complications and downsides associated with other public sector demand aggregation, leveraged and co-investment models. Tameside and its public sector partners invest in new infrastructure assets where a business case can be made to meet needs. Then those assets are sewn together to form a coherent, integrated infrastructure that can be shared using a co-operative. In general the business case for each investment stands alone. By linking assets together into a shared network, the business case is multiplied.

Tameside has been working with public sector partners including Tameside Hospital, the Pennine Care NHS trust, Tameside College and Jigsaw Homes - the principal registered social landlord. Following consultations, including a successful soft market test and detailed state aid advice, Tameside is extending the model to include private sector partners. The Tameside Digital Infrastructure Cooperative is being formally established with founder members from both sectors. As with the public sector, private sector partners can contribute assets and use the integrated infrastructure to provide services.

DCMS and BDUK have nominated Tameside to be one of six pilot 'Wave 1' projects in its £200m Local Full Fibre Network Programme, and is encouraging other authorities to learn from and use the model.



Cooperative Network Infrastructure

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