

Press Release

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Internet of Things trial unleashes Peterborough's smart city potential

Social housing locations across Peterborough have been transformed into a Smart City test bed – thanks to a pioneering partnership and the city's next generation full fibre network.

Full fibre infrastructure provider, CityFibre has partnered with Peterborough's largest social housing landlord, Cross Keys Homes (CKH), to explore how a network of sensors deployed throughout its estate could monitor health, safety and environmental factors as well as deliver cost savings and reduce the carbon footprint of both CKH and its residents.

The trial at three residential locations across the city used a network of sensors transmitting real-time data back to a network of antennas, which in turn were connected to CityFibre's full fibre network in the city. It was made possible by support from Comms365, a Network Services company specialising in Internet of Things (IoT) sensor networks and applications. Comms365 has recently been awarded an industry award for its role in delivering the project.

The next generation sensor technology was deployed to evaluate its potential in a number of scenarios. Sensors were used to effectively monitor humidity and condensation to improve the comfort of tenants while reducing the need for damp treatment or repair. Environmental sensors were also used to address wasted heat in communal areas, contributing to reduced carbon emissions and lower energy bills.

Noise sensors also delivered further benefit by monitoring unauthorised activity in vacant properties, while parking sensors alerted staff to illegal parking in front of emergency exits. This real time data enabled CKH employees to act promptly, ensuring improved tenant safety and security. Additional sensors also were also used to monitor levels in water tanks and detect fire risks such open fire doors, allowing for swift remedial action.

Claire Higgins, Chief Executive at Cross Keys Homes, said: "At the beginning of the trial we could never have anticipated just how many uses and benefits the IoT technology would uncover. We have been able to identify new ways to ensure our homes are comfortable, safe and green by addressing condensation, security, fire risk and energy waste, which in turn has led to significant cost and efficiency savings.

"The potential for this technology to transform operations for other housing providers and different public services is immense. We are thrilled to be trialling IoT in one of the first cities to benefit from a citywide full fibre roll out. As an innovative organisation we are ambitious to explore Peterborough's smart city potential even further and showcase its status as one of the most digitally advanced communities in the UK.'

Clayton Nash, CityFibre's Group Head of Product, added: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to evaluate the potential for our new full fibre networks to support the Internet of Things use-cases of the future. We don't know how our lives will be transformed by IoT, we do know that this future will be built on a backbone of full fibre infrastructure. It is this backbone that CityFibre is busy building and it is exciting to see the huge scope a platform like this provides for innovation with forward thinking partners likes Comms365 and Cross Keys Homes.

Mike van Bunnens, Managing Director at Comms365, added: "This unique partnership model has brought together the people, partners and expertise to bring digital transformation to life.

"Full fibre is the only form of digital infrastructure capable of delivering the speed, capacity, reliability and symmetry required to support smart city technology. Therefore, by deploying these networks citywide in communities like Peterborough, CityFibre has enabled IoT innovation from the ground up.'

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Issued on behalf of CityFibre by Weber Shandwick. For more information or images, contact: Dyan Owen at dowen@webershandwick.com or 07738 086 818.

Notes to Editors:

- CityFibre is currently investing more than £30m to deliver Peterborough's citywide full fibre network through its strategic partnership with Vodafone. The city's digital transformation will see almost every home and business benefit from access to gigabit-capable full fibre internet connectivity. Construction work started last July and the first residential customers connected in January this year.
- CityFibre is currently deploying its full fibre 'Gigabit City' networks in twelve towns and cities across the country with plans to provide access to over five million homes, 20% of the UK market by 2025. These networks are being designed to cater to all market verticals as well as to provide the backhaul needed to support the rollout of IoT applications and 5G networks.
- Comms365 won the 'Channel Supplier: Specialist Supplier' Award at the Comms Business Awards on 20 June for its role in delivering the project
- To find out more about CityFibre's Gigabit City vision for Peterborough visit www.cityfibre.com/gigabit-cities/Peterborough

About CityFibre

CityFibre is a leading provider of wholesale full fibre infrastructure with network roll-outs underway to reach at least 20% of the UK market by 2025. With major fibre infrastructure

assets and projects in more than 50 towns and cities, CityFibre provides wholesale connectivity to business and consumer service providers, local authorities and mobile operators.

Underpinned by a £2.5bn investment programme, CityFibre will deliver a new generation of Gigabit-capable full fibre infrastructure to five million homes by 2025. A growing number of Gigabit City projects have been announced for full-city roll-outs and CityFibre continues to prime its existing network assets for expansion.

CityFibre is based in London, United Kingdom, and is privately owned by Antin Infrastructure Partners and West Street Infrastructure Partners.

www.cityfibre.com

About Cross Keys Homes

Cross Keys Homes (CKH) is a commercial business with a social heart, dedicated to providing high-quality, affordable housing in prosperous communities. As well as managing over 11,000 homes, they have ambitious plans to build a further 500 homes a year until 2023.

CKH is the largest social housing landlord in Peterborough, but is also growing and moving into new areas, including Huntingdonshire, Milton Keynes, and Bedfordshire. They provide affordable homes for social rent, private rent, leasehold and shared ownership.

They also provide a first class care service and invest heavily in making the neighbourhoods in which they operate into vibrant, supportive and successful communities.

www.crosskeyshomes.co.uk

About Comms365

Comms365 is an innovative Network Services company specialising in bespoke IoT solutions. It has gained a reputation within the B2B market for delivering an exceptional level of service across its product and service portfolio. Comms365 delivers powerful and scalable end-to-end IoT solutions including IoT platform design and build, LPWAN access networks, including LoRaWAN, sensor deployment, IoT data collection, analysis, visualisation and insight.

Comms365's vision is fully focussed on solving problems, increasing compliance and improving customer satisfaction, by providing tailored IoT service solutions. Through these deployments it is possible to produce speedier returns and longer-term business benefits for organisations, their employees and clients.

www.comms365.com