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The rollout of Gigafast Broadband across Peterborough is continuing at pace.

Earlier this year it was announced that the city, already one of the UK's most advanced Gigabit City projects, had been selected by CityFibre and Vodafone UK to benefit from a city-wide roll-out of full fibre infrastructure.

It is the third city launched under the strategic partnership to deliver full fibre to approximately 12 cities and reaching one million homes across the UK by 2021.

<u>CityFibre</u> has committed to invest at least £30 million in the infrastructure project which will extend its fibre network to nearly every home and business in the city.

The installation work started this summer and to date around 140 kilometres of cables have been installed.

Last week, Councillor John Holdich, Leader of Peterborough City Council, joined representatives from CityFibre to see cabling being installed.

Councillor Holdich said: "It is very exciting to see Peterborough's digital transformation unfold before us.

"This year, we celebrate our beautiful cathedral's 900 year anniversary, giving us the opportunity to reflect on our history and heritage. It also gives us the chance to consider how our city will change over the next millennia.

"It cannot be denied that digital technology is already playing a huge part in shaping our world, and by future-proofing our digital infrastructure, we can be sure that Peterborough will be in the best possible position to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that lie ahead."

Rebecca Stephens, City Development Manager for Peterborough at CityFibre, added: "As an award-winning smart city, Peterborough has a reputation for embracing technology and innovation to improve services, make its communities safer and drive business growth.

"This latest phase of development by CityFibre takes its vision a giant leap further, by making it possible for practically every resident and business to connect their home or premises to full fibre. This will bring numerous benefits such as the improved ability to work remotely and adopt smart technology for the home, as well as increased productivity and collaboration in the workplace."

Paul Ryder, Peterborough City Manager at Vodafone, added: "By delivering ultrafast speeds over a full-fibre network infrastructure, Vodafone Gigafast Broadband will revolutionise the way people live and work.

"We're really excited to see how work has progressed in Peterborough and look forward to connecting our first customers from early next year."

Unlike 97 per cent of today's broadband services in the UK, Vodafone Gigafast Broadband doesn't rely on old fashioned copper telephone lines. It is based solely on fibre-optic cables to give users a vastly superior online experience capable of Gigabit speeds (1,000 Mbps).

According to figures from industry body Fibre to the Home Council, providing full fibre to just half of all premises could result in a

1.1% rise in annual GDP.

When applied to Peterborough, the city- wide fibre roll-out could unlock huge economic growth exceeding £700 million in Gross Value Added (GVA) over the next 15 years.