

## Collaboration Working Agreement

In the spirit of collective progress and community welfare, the six Local Authorities of Berkshire have joined forces to establish a ground breaking Collaboration Working Agreement.

This historic alliance unites Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Councils in a shared mission to enhance the prosperity and well-being of Berkshire's residents.

### *Purpose*

The primary purpose of this Collaboration Working Agreement is to foster synergy among Berkshire's Local Authorities. By pooling resources, expertise, and efforts, we aim to:

**Drive Efficiency:** Streamline operations and reduce duplication of services, optimising resource allocation for the benefit of our communities.

**Maximize Impact:** Amplify our collective voice and influence to secure funding, drive policy changes, and address regional challenges effectively.

**Enhance Service Delivery:** Elevate the quality and accessibility of public services, ensuring that residents receive the best possible support and opportunities.

**Promote Innovation:** Foster a culture of digital innovation and shared learning to tackle emerging issues and seize opportunities in a rapidly evolving world.

### *Key Focus Areas*

Our Collaboration Working Agreement will concentrate on several key infrastructure focus areas, including but not limited to:

**Economic Development:** Promoting sustainable economic growth, attracting investments, and creating job opportunities that benefit all residents.

**Infrastructure and Sustainability:** Developing and maintaining digital infrastructure while advancing environmentally sustainable practices.

**Education and Skills:** Collaborating on educational initiatives to improve digital skills and employability among residents.

**Social Services:** Enhancing the delivery and improvement of social services, with a focus on digital infrastructure, to assist vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

**Housing and Planning:** Coordinating efforts to improve digital infrastructure that addresses housing challenges, affordability, and urban planning.

## ***Principles and Governance***

The Collaboration Working Agreement is founded on the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. Each Local Authority will have representation and equal say in decision-making processes, with representation on the DIG Board, ensuring that the interests of all businesses and communities are respected.

## ***Benefits***

By forging this collaborative path when it comes to all things digital, Berkshire's Local Authorities anticipate the following benefits:

**Greater Resilience:** A stronger collective voice and resource-sharing will make us more resilient in addressing regional challenges and crises.

**Cost Savings:** Focussing resources and economies of scale will lead to cost savings that can be reinvested in digital initiatives and technology to improve services.

**Enhanced Innovation:** Cross-pollination of ideas and best practices will foster innovation and better service delivery.

**Improved Quality of Life:** Coordinated efforts will enhance the quality of life for Berkshire's residents, making it an even more desirable place to live and work.

In summary, the Berkshire Local Authorities Collaboration Working Agreement is a bold step forward toward a more prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive future for all residents of Berkshire. It underscores our unwavering commitment to working together for the betterment of our businesses and communities, ensuring that Berkshire remains a vibrant and thriving region for generations to come.