

Local Authorities

Importance of connectivity to local authorities

Many local authorities have driven the digitisation of public services in recent years, recognising the opportunities offered by technology and digital tools. By developing accessible and usable websites and mobile offerings, local authorities are able to target specific services and interact more efficiently with those who live and work in their local area.

With these new services, comes the need to ensure residents and businesses can access them effectively. However, fixed broadband in rural areas may not be fast, reliable, or even in place at all. The mobile coverage that will be delivered by the Shared Rural Network will enable people across the UK to access the services provided by their local authority.

How will local authorities benefit from the Shared Rural Network?

Local authorities have embraced the fact that people want to carry out their daily business online at a time and place convenient to them, and with the growing use of smartphones and tablet devices, they are increasingly adopting a 'mobile first' approach. The introduction of the Shared Rural Network will allow these mobile devices to be connected away from the home and office.

Online services extend across most local authority departments, whether it's paying bills online or accessing council information, arranging bin collections or submitting planning applications; the number of online services is constantly increasing with technological advancements. Local authorities now benefit from the likes of taking car parking fees via mobile phones or using geo-mapping for people to log potholes and fly tipping whilst out and about, they use live web chats to reduce face to face costs and use online forms to log issues and complaints; the coverage delivered by the Shared Rural Network will help make these services more accessible, to more people.

By moving many of their services online, local authorities have been able to make significant cost savings and streamline operations. It is in their best interest to encourage as many residents as possible to use these online services. The Shared Rural Network will significantly improve the connectivity options in rural areas and help remove barriers to people connecting to local authority services.

However, it's not just the end user that will benefit. The introduction of the Shared Rural Network will enable local authority staff to work more effectively while they are out and about. They will be able to access documents and files on the go, assist members of the public with online services, or simply be able to work at home more efficiently. The Shared Rural Network will provide the networks needed to help improve productivity and assist in reducing public spending across local authorities.

