

infralink



INFRALINK CASE STUDY

Glasgow City Council

A centralised approach to accelerating the roll-out of digital connectivity





Background

Glasgow City Council's holistic approach to digital connectivity is speeding up the roll-out of 5G and high-speed broadband, driving innovation and increasing the city's attractiveness for private investment.

The Programme

Glasgow City Council has been experiencing increased interest from the communications industry in working with the Council to deliver digital connectivity infrastructure resulting in volumes of new planning applications more than doubling each year.

The Digital Communications Infrastructure Project was launched in 2019 with the aim of ensuring Glasgow is an attractive, innovative location to invest in, proactively engaging with the communications industry and ensuring that the deployment of new digital infrastructure is as efficient for all stakeholders as possible.

In addition to streamlining Council processes associated with telecoms, mapping relevant Council assets and developing standardised documentation, Glasgow became the first council to establish a centralised specialist team to coordinate and assist all connectivity related activities through its Telecoms Unit.

The Telecoms Unit works alongside Planning and Roads departments that respond to telecoms applications, providing support and information when needed. Lease terms and site payments that the Council is willing to adopt are publicised on the website via the Telecoms Portal. This systemised approach to lease terms and site rents, combined with streamlined internal processes and a dedicated point of contact have all helped to significantly reduce the time and effort involved for both sides in processing telecoms applications.

Benefits

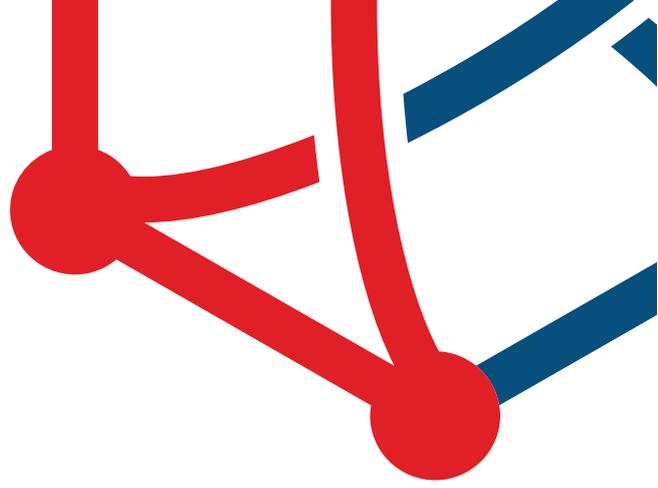
- The reduced time and effort in processing telecoms proposals translate to cost savings and less pressure on resource for both sides.
- Reduced risk to the Council of code-related challenge from telecoms operators via Lands Tribunal/Court action.
- Ability to proactively influence new infrastructure initiatives by enabling more collaborative and strategic relationships with operators.
- Glasgow is a more attractive location for investment in digital connectivity infrastructure.

The Results

- **The Telecoms Unit has helped reduce the time both sides spend on telecoms applications.**
- **Standardisation of leases and site payments reduces complexity when working with Glasgow City Council.**
- **Recognition from all telecoms operators that Glasgow City Council is an attractive partner to work with.**
- **Increased deployment of new infrastructure, including major new fibre rollouts and small cell agreements, across Glasgow.**



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What is Infralink?

The Infralink programme, led by Scottish Futures Trust and funded by the Scotland 5G Centre, is establishing a framework that is workable at a national level, and is balanced and transparent to make the process of identifying a site for mobile digital infrastructure and agreeing the terms of the lease more efficient.

It builds off existing developments and local initiatives to set out best practice providing a basis for meaningful discussion.

The Infralink tools include

A Connectivity Marketplace - an online map-based marketplace that publicises public sector assets that are available for digital infrastructure to be sited on.

Standard Documents - a balanced starting point removing the need to negotiate standard terms.

Payment Guidance - recommended methodology and prices to occupy/use the assets that build upon the principles of the Electronic Communications Code and recognise the impact of digital infrastructure as a tenant.

In the development of these tools, Infralink have engaged with the mobile industry and public sector organisations that have assets either in parts of Scotland or across the country. We cover rural and urban areas, land and buildings, areas of existing industry interest and new areas to support future opportunities such as the Shared Rural Network.

Benefits of Infralink

- A chance to make the process of site identification and agreement more efficient and work better for both parties.
- Allows asset owners to put their requirements upfront so industry knows what the starting point is.
- Allows industry to plan their 4G and 5G network in an effective way knowing the location, size and owner of the sites. and discussion that could lead to new opportunities and investment.
- The fact of the public sector using these tools will send a clear signal to the market that the organisation recognises the importance of connectivity to their area and their users. It will encourage engagement and discussion that could lead to new opportunities and investment.

“The co-ordination and streamlining of various related GCC processes will lower the cost of doing business with Glasgow and is the foundation for attracting and maximising investment while ensuring continuing compliance with the Electronic Communications Code.”

Anne McLister
Head of Digital Economy at Glasgow City Council

To find out more about Infralink please go to

infralink.scottishfuturestrust.org.uk

