

Bradford Wellbeing Board Digital District Strategy 2022 - 2027

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Digital Strategy-on-a-Page

The Digital Strategy is an enabling strategy to our District Plan and our Economic and Clean Growth aspirations. It will build the foundations for economic growth and prosperity, build our capabilities in new 'clean' technologies and identify key areas for collaboration and strategic investment to support digital growth and well-being.

Sub Goals	<i>A world-class core digital infrastructure</i>	<i>Analytical insight driving growth, place development and effective services</i>	<i>A blueprint for future, sustainable low carbon energy for power, transportation and heating</i>	<i>A thriving digital & creative sector</i>	<i>No citizens of Bradford District are digitally excluded</i>
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We are supporting the achievement of our goals in three critical areas:

Laying the Foundations for Success

Digital infrastructure: establishing a long term network partner and programme to deliver 100% Full Fibre Gigabit connectivity across the whole district together with 5G rollout across the city.

Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure: creating a blueprint for sustainable future energy needs for power, heating and transport.

Cyber Bradford: working with DCMS to establish Bradford as a leading region for cyber security on skills development, SME cyber support and smart city Test Bed.

Skills and Talent Development: including Digital Skills Partnership Programme, CTE Partnership Boards, Digital Makers initiative, working with industry and academia to identify and close gaps in digital skills

Digital Inclusion – a comprehensive approach with a new local stakeholder governance framework, investment in dedicated resources and a digital champions community network.

Building our capabilities in new technologies

Artificial Intelligence (AI) CoE: A centre of excellence for Bradford to become a UK leader on the development and use of trustworthy, ethical and inclusive AI.

Technical Innovation Centre – working with the University of Bradford to create a Lab environment for the District, linking into our AI CoE to improve competitiveness of Bradford businesses and manufacturing industries through Industry 4.0 technologies.

Smart Place Platform: Implementation of LoRaWan and 34 Gateway network across the District providing comprehensive basis for smart city application growth.

Data Analytics: Building on investments already made to create an analytics platform to drive “whole-systems” approach to services.

Digital Twin Modelling – Virtual Bradford – a 3D model of the city centre established with further investment in its development across the City

Citizen Science: Building on our world class programmes Born in Bradford, Act Early and Bradford Life Critical Project.

Lifting our ambition on Digital Growth

Bradford Business District House - An impartial central resource for entrepreneurs and start-ups, a single body of experts to help businesses navigate/co-ordinate business support.

Green Economy – Targeted support to the Low Carbon, Environmental Goods Services Sector.

Dynamic and emerging tech sector – Building emerging technology capability and accelerating the growth of tech start-ups, such as Healthtech, CyberTech, FinTech to drive an uplift in the local economy.

Regional Creative Quarter - Explore the designation of Little Germany as a Heritage Action Zone to boost attractiveness as a regional creative quarter.

UK City of Culture 2025. Digital, media and creative sector opportunities will bring the latest cultural trends and digital tools to the district.

Key Budget Highlights

- £10m investment in digital connectivity
- £2.5m investment in smart city platform capability.
- £5m 5-year capital programme
- Investment in the TIC to drive innovation across the economy.

Relevant Strategies and Plans

- District Plan
- Council Plan
- Economic Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan
- Clean Growth
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy



2027

Outcomes sought by 2027

All premises across the District, business, academic and domestic have access to affordable gigabit capable connectivity and Bradford is one of the first areas in the UK that mobile operators look to when implementing their new generation of mobile technology (6G, 7G).

Bradford is home to several hundred new businesses, from start-ups and SMEs to larger businesses actively developing, adopting and applying new technologies to identify new service applications, commercial products, disease diagnoses, improve health and tackle climate change. A regional technical innovation centre (TIC) is well established having a great impact making the District a leader-in-innovation and creating skills and employment opportunities through the attraction and creation of highly innovative companies.

A smart city architecture together with advanced analytics tools is supporting a 'whole systems' approach to service planning in areas such as Environment (air quality, flooding, ground temp), Transport (traffic management, parking, fleet tracking), Health (movement and activity monitoring for elderly), Energy, Buildings management and many other areas.

Bradford is a recognised leader of Citizen Science and a global centre for research backed by a number of prestigious awards for its work with citizen science and public policy. The digital twin application provides a 3D model of the whole District, and is now having a profound impact on a number of fields, from local architecture and urban development to healthcare and manufacturing.

Whilst not achieved our ambition of net zero self-sufficiency energy production, the District is much more resilient, producing a reasonable proportion of its own energy needs through renewable technologies.

A productive, resilient and innovative economy that offers a higher standard of living and is based on a highly skilled, diverse and flexible workforce. There is a high density of high tech companies, a thriving Green Economy of entrepreneurs with less reliance on legacy industries such as, low tech manufacturing and low wage service sectors.

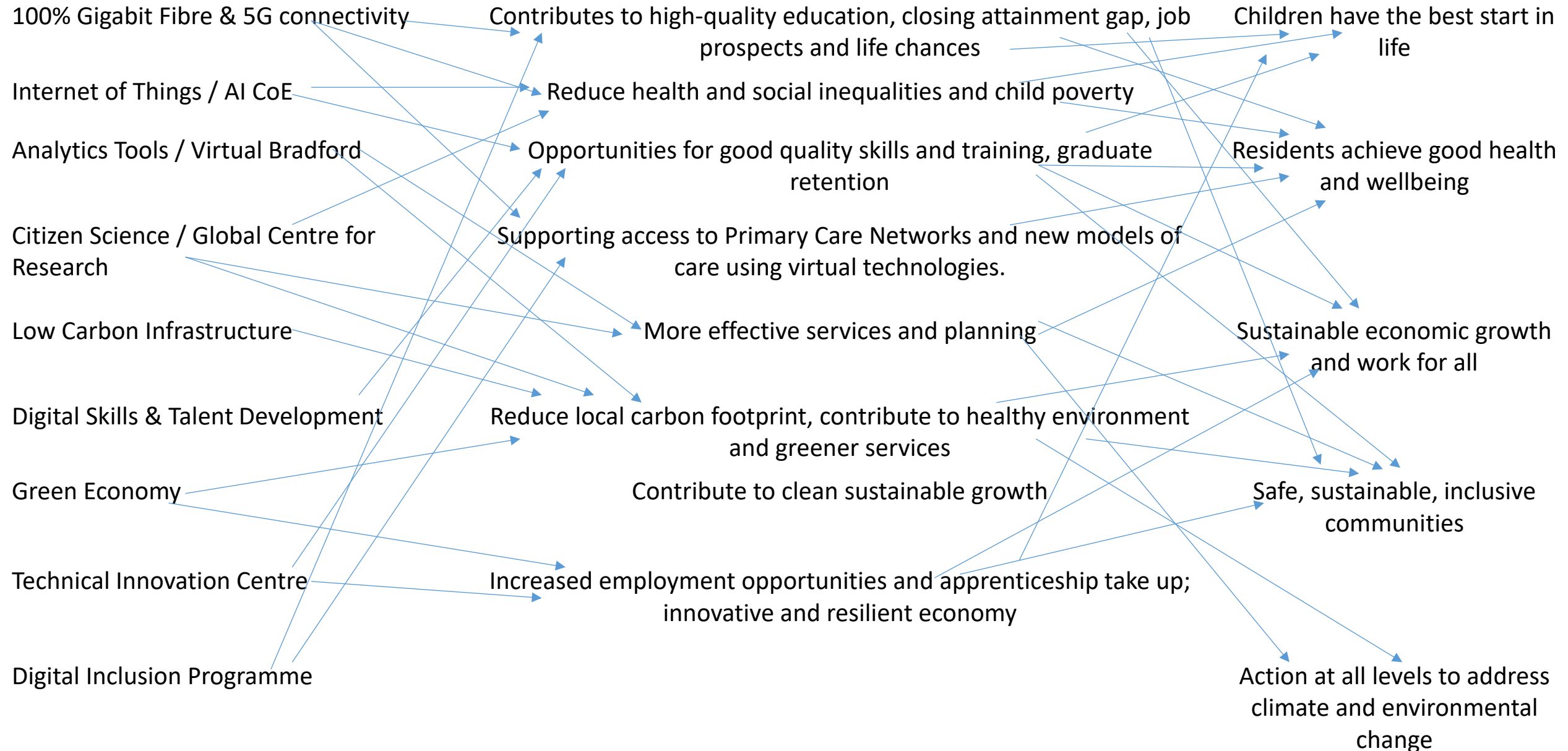
Closed the attainment gap for disadvantaged learners, so that each of our communities are able to access and progress in learning, and experience the economic benefits. An inspired student population, increased apprenticeship uptake for ICT, growth of graduate skills retention in the region and provision of more work-ready students to support the West Yorkshire economy.

Supporting District Plan Outcomes

Digital Strategy Initiative

Benefits

District Plan Outcome



Ask of the Board

- The Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- - Note the Strategy, provide feedback on themes, gaps, activities.
 - Endorse and support its aim and objectives
 - Be the ultimate Strategy Board and receive annual reports to the Wellbeing Board on progress of the implementation of the Digital strategy based on the outcomes of the delivery plan.
 - Encourage and support stakeholder collaboration and co-ordination in the relevant activities set out in the strategy roadmap and be a focal point to ensure all dots are connected.
 - Support the formal launch of the strategy in June to be confirmed
 - Commit to contributing to a future stakeholder visioning session on the Smart Place vision for Bradford District.

Next Steps

1. Consultation period with partners and key stakeholders; final version of strategy will be developed following feedback from this.
2. Business case Paper on Council Capital Programme **22/23 allocations**
3. Working on the **Launch** of the Strategy at Bradford Science Museum in May/June 2022-further details will be provided.
4. Conclusion and appointment of successful bidder(s) on network procurements by March 2022.
5. Outline Strategic Investment Case for a Bradford **Technical Innovation Centre (TIC)** together with UoB. Explore potential for creating an **AI Centre of Excellence** – clear direction AI strategy for the district
6. Set up Workshop with Service representatives to determine Smart City pilot use cases