

# Digital Connectivity Statement



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Digital Connectivity Statement has been prepared in support of a full planning application for the proposed Health Centre at the former Whitefield Library, Pinfold Lane, Whitefield within the administrative area of Bury Council.
- 1.2. The statement sets out how the development will deliver high-quality, secure and resilient digital connectivity to support modern healthcare provision in accordance with national and local planning policy and the operational requirements of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB).

## 2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights the importance of advanced, high-quality and reliable communications infrastructure to support sustainable development and the effective operation of community facilities.
- 2.2. Policy JP-C2 requires new developments to provide gigabit-capable broadband and infrastructure that supports emerging technologies.
- 2.3. In addition, the Greater Manchester ICB promotes the delivery of digitally enabled healthcare, including the use of shared electronic patient records, digital appointment systems, remote consultations and integrated care models. Reliable, high-capacity digital connectivity is therefore a fundamental requirement for the operation of a modern health centre.

## 3. Existing Connectivity

- 3.1. The site is located within an established urban area of Bury that benefits from existing telecommunications infrastructure. Broadband and mobile coverage in the surrounding area indicates that the site is capable of being served by modern digital networks, providing a suitable basis for enhanced connectivity to support healthcare uses.

## 4. Proposed Digital Infrastructure

- 4.1. The proposed Health Centre will be designed to be digitally enabled, resilient and future-proofed, with infrastructure that supports both current and anticipated future healthcare technologies.
- 4.2. The Health Centre will be capable of being served by high-speed, gigabit-capable broadband, subject to availability. This level of connectivity is essential to support:

- NHS clinical systems and shared electronic patient records
  - Digital appointment and triage systems
  - Video and remote consultations
  - Secure data transfer and cloud-based healthcare applications
  - Day-to-day operational and administrative functions
- 4.3. Early engagement with broadband and telecommunications providers will be undertaken to ensure suitable services are available prior to occupation.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. The Statement sets out how the Proposed Development has been designed to support high quality, secure and future-proof digital connectivity, enabling efficient and modern healthcare delivery in line with the objectives of the Greater Manchester ICB and Bury Council. The proposals accord with national and local planning policy and will ensure the facility is fit for purpose both at the point of delivery and into the future.