

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Ensuring Bexley is well placed for the future

People living, working or simply visiting the Borough will soon be able to enjoy a fantastic new free public wi-fi service in many of Bexley's main town centres. It is one of several improvements to community infrastructure, which the Council is delivering.

The aim is to ensure that Bexley is a place where people want to live and work in years to come, an ambition which has been boosted with the recent news that BT have named Bexley as London's most digitally connected borough.

Councillor Teresa O'Neill, OBE Leader of the Council said:

"I am pleased that our hard work to improve wi-fi connections in Bexley has been recognised, and that we are now London's most digitally connected borough.

"We have been working with BT and Virgin Media to upgrade their networks and forming partnerships with other digital providers, so that everyone in the Borough can have more choice, and receive high quality, superfast wi-fi. Plans are also being made to improve mobile communication and we have secured funding for new high-speed fibre networks."

Improving transport links in the Borough and extending Crossrail to connect Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet, is another key priority. Following four years of campaigning by the Council and its partners, £4.85m government funding has been secured to move the delivery of this critical infrastructure forward.

Cllr Louie French, Bexley's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growth said:
"We want to create sustainable communities and we know that providing housing and employment opportunities alone is not enough: working with our partners we have to provide the 'infrastructure' to support local people to work and prosper in our Borough."

The Council is working to deliver a number of initiatives to make Bexley a cleaner and greener borough by reducing air pollution. Plans are in place to develop a network of on-street Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, off-street rapid charging stations and to encourage developers to provide EV points in new developments.

Using external funding, the Council is also exploring the design and sale of a district heating network, taking heat from the Cory Energy Waste plant to heat homes in Thamesmead, Abbey Wood and Belvedere. This has the potential to not only decrease carbon emissions in the borough but to also reduce residents' fuel bills.

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