

SFT OUTCOMES

2023

Digital map pinpoints public sector assets to improve connectivity

PRIMARY OUTCOME

05

PROGRAMME AND PROJECT
PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY
IS EFFECTIVE

SECONDARY

08

OUR CORPORATE PRIORITIES



NET
ZERO



SUSTAINABLE
PLACES



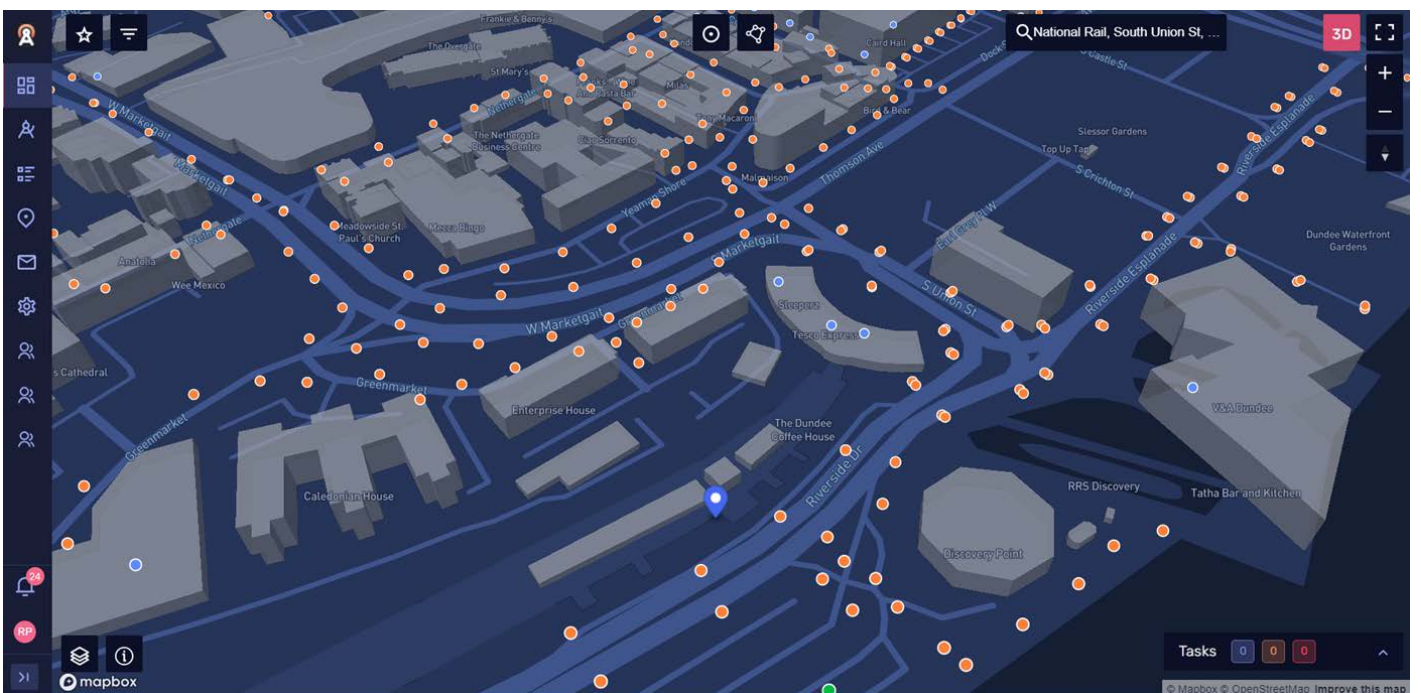
INCLUSIVE
GROWTH

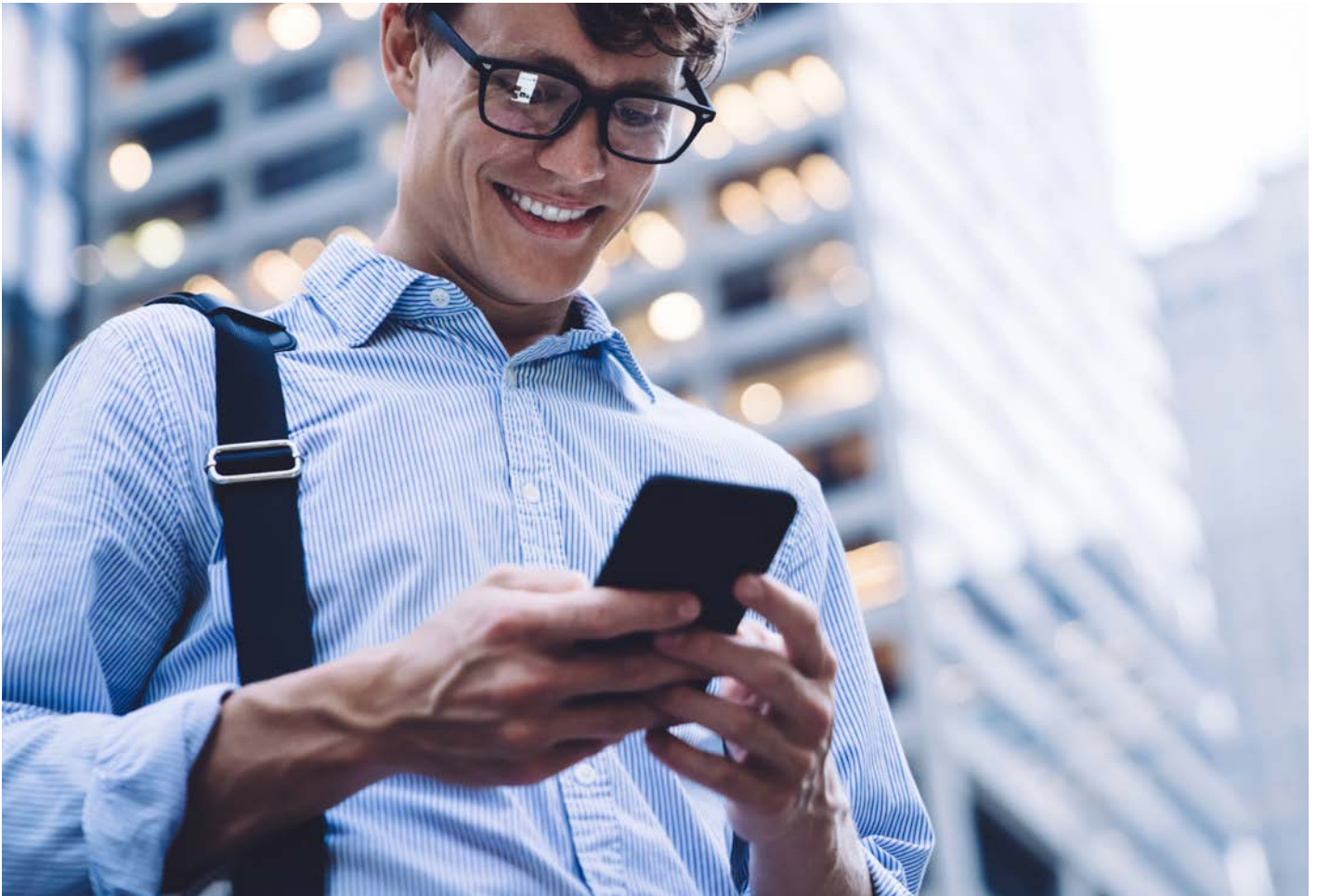
Scotland's public sector has one of the largest property portfolios that covers land, buildings and various other assets such as streetlighting and street furniture – these are assets that the mobile phone industry is keen to know more about and install mobile network transmitters to improve mobile coverage.

For some time, our Digital Connectivity team has recognised that local authorities and the mobile industry face numerous challenges when agreeing both the terms and locations to install new mobile digital infrastructure on public sector assets.

To help solve that problem, in February 2022, the Digital Connectivity team was awarded £500,000 of funding from the then UK government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, to deliver a street furniture pathfinder project (known as Infralink-Exchange) and follows on from the team's work on the Infralink programme, funded by the Scotland 5G Centre.

The aim of Infralink-Exchange was to create a database of all public sector owned assets across the Tay Cities region (covering Angus, Dundee City, Fife and Perth and Kinross Councils), that would be suitable for mobile phone operators to install mobile network transmitters.





And less than five months later, in July 2022, the team launched its online platform giving details of over 140,000 public assets where mobile network infrastructure could be placed.

Angus Council Leader and Chair of the of Tay Cities Region Deal Board, Councillor Beth Whiteside, said: "The Infralink-Exchange pilot plays a key role in improving connectivity throughout the Tay Cities Region by bringing together public assets and industry to allow local citizens, businesses, and visitors to experience enhanced mobile connectivity."

Hamish MacLeod, Chief Executive of Mobile UK, said: "Connectivity is crucial to generating opportunities and driving economic growth. The Infralink programme is a pioneering initiative bringing together public assets and industry, and this milestone marks an important step in creating a streamlined process to enable quick and effective infrastructure deployment and ultimately extending mobile connectivity to more people."

And to further help all Scotland's public bodies, the Digital Connectivity team published its *Infralink-Exchange 'Playbook'* or 'How-To' guide, allowing other public sector bodies to learn from the work the team has completed to deliver improved engagement with the mobile sector and identifying assets for mobile network equipment.

That Playbook has now been shared with all Scotland's public bodies, giving them the tools they need to better engage with the mobile industry that will ultimately benefit the communities those public bodies serve.

Key Partners

Angus Council
Dundee City Council
Fife Council
Perth & Kinross Council
Improvement Service
Local Government Digital Office
Connected Places Catapult
Sitenna
FarrPoint
Scotland 5G Centre
Burness Paull LLP