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**Leicester becomes the latest city in Midlands to benefit from free ultrafast wi-fi and phone calls**

***InLinkUK from BT: Innovative digital street units go live in Leicester***

Leicester has become the latest city in Midlands to benefit from the free InLinkUK from BT service, which already has over 215,000 subscribers across the UK. It offers the UK's fastest free public wi-fi plus a range of digital services, including local council and community information.

The first eight InLinks being installed in central Leicester provide ultrafast wi-fi speeds of up to one gigabit per second (1Gbps), the fastest free public wi-fi service available in the UK. The InLinks also provide free phone calls to UK landlines and mobiles, rapid mobile device charging, the BT Phone Book app, as well as easy access to charity helplines. Leicester joins London, Southampton, Leeds, Glasgow, Swansea, Sheffield, Manchester and Birmingham as the latest city to benefit from the new service.

InLinks mean more space on pavements, as on average, each InLink replaces two BT payphones, with 42 set to be removed in Leicester. BT's iconic red phone boxes will remain.

The first of the fully-accessible InLinks have already gone live on Horsefair Street and London Road. Further locations, including Granby Street and Gallowtree Gate are expected to join them in the coming weeks.

Home to two universities and a vibrant arts scene, this new communications service in the heart of the city will help cement Leicester as one of the UK's most digitally connected cities.

Leicester City Council and the local community are also benefiting from the digital displays on the InLinks that display real-time information, including the weather forecast and other

local information. Each InLink provides more than 1,000 hours of local messaging a year, acting as a community notice board for the local area. These services are provided to the community at no public cost, as the project is funded by advertising revenue.

Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr Ross Grant, welcomed the news. "I am pleased that Leicester is only the second city in the Midlands to welcome the InLinks. We have always been a city with an eye for opportunity and believe the range of free services the InLinks provide is a significant contribution to Leicester's digital strategy. As a city, we plan to continue to encourage and support digital innovation which strengthens businesses and investment."

Giles Ellerton, BT regional director for the Midlands, said: "Today's launch in Leicester brings the fastest free public wi-fi in the UK to the city. Residents and visitors alike are set to benefit from this new services, where they can make calls for free, access local information and even charge their phone when out and about."

Matt Bird, general manager for InLinkUK, added: "Our network is currently in a period of rapid growth and we're excited that Leicester has joined us on this journey to creating smart communities, supporting their digital innovation ambitions. With Leicester being such a core hub for workers, tourists and residents alike, the range of free digital services provided by the InLinks is a great asset."

The UK rollout has so far seen more than 260 InLinks installed across the UK in Swansea, with hundreds more to be installed in major towns and cities across the UK. Since the first InLink was installed in June last year, more than 215,000 people have subscribed to the service's free wi-fi, using enough data to download the equivalent of over 24 million songs. The InLinks have also saved people more than £980,000 in free calls, with 50,000 calls being made on average every week across the UK.

The InLinkUK from BT service is dedicated to providing all-inclusive digital services, one of which is their charity icon on the tablet. A free one-touch lifeline to four national charities, which provides free calls to Childline, End Youth Homelessness, Runaway Helpline and Samaritans. The InLinks are also accessible, offering additional digital services, including for those who have sight and visual impairments.

InLinkUK from BT is a partnership between BT and tech start up InLinkUK.

**Enquiries:**

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Email [press@inlinkuk.com](mailto:press@inlinkuk.com)

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**Notes to Editors**

**About InLinkUK**

InLinkUK is a tech start up providing a new communications network that will replace over 1,000 pay phones in major cities across the UK, with new units called InLinks.

Each InLink provides ultrafast, free public wi-fi, phone calls, device charging and a tablet for access to city services, maps and directions, connecting those who visit, live and work in urban hubs across the UK.

Hundreds of users within range of an InLink will be able to access free ultrafast wi-fi on the move, with speeds of up to 1Gbps - the fastest free public wi-fi service available.

InLinkUK from BT is being brought to the UK through a joint venture between Intersection, the urban innovation company behind LinkNYC, and Primesight, a leading UK out-of-home media company, in partnership with BT.

Learn more at <http://www.inlinkuk.com>

**BT's wi-fi network in the UK:**

BT already operates the biggest network in the UK, giving customers unlimited access to the most extensive wi-fi coverage with more than five million hotspots.

**Images:**

For images, see [The BT Media Image library](#) and [Telefocus - historical images from BT Archives](#).

**About BT**

BT's purpose is to use the power of communications to make a better world. It is one of the world's leading providers of communications services and solutions, serving customers in

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For the year ended 31 March 2018, BT Group's reported revenue was £23,723m with reported profit before taxation of £2,616m.

British Telecommunications plc (BT) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group plc and encompasses virtually all businesses and assets of the BT Group. BT Group plc is listed on stock exchanges in London and New York.

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