



Report:

The Importance of Social Engagement in Putting 5G Connectivity Infrastructures in Place

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This paper is written based on an independent study conducted as part of Mobile Access North Yorkshire (MANY) – part of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) 5G Testbed and Trials programme.



Figure 1. Connecting Activity Domains and Social Worlds through the MANY Project's Activities

The purpose of this document is to share social science research insights, generated through work with the Mobile Access North Yorkshire (MANY) project, in order to develop best practice, generate discussion for future collaborative work, and work out our collective next steps that might better achieve our aim: to help very rural communities achieve socio-economic flourishing through improved connectivity.

We define 'flourishing' as improvements in wellbeing, business innovation and the safety and resilience of connected communities and use this as our overarching aim of our work. More specifically, we define improved wellbeing as reductions in self-perceived levels of harm, loneliness, and improvements in social connections and mental health; improved business innovation as improvements in practice that contribute to the business growth and/or improvements in productivity and/or (public) service offering (i.e. using a reduced resource for the same output); and improved safety and resilience as improvements in the timeliness and quality of information provided at critical decision-making junctures.

We are working across three domains of action, the technology innovation domain, the technology-in-use domain, and in the middle, the institutional domain (Figure 1). Across these domains we are working to connect people from different social worlds (used to working with different logics, and working practices), to help them co-produce connectivity solutions that work *in place*: in a very rural community.



