

NEWS FROM Essex + Herts Digital Innovation Zone

Local Partnership Highlighted in list of National Digital Leaders

On 1st June it was announced that the Essex + Herts Digital Innovation Zone (DIZ), a cross-border, cross-sector partnership to promote digital services and delivery across West Essex and Eastern Hertfordshire, has been selected as one of the country's top 100 Digital Leaders.



The #Digileaders100 list initiative backed by a number of Government departments and major digital companies in the UK is created by public vote and celebrates the teams and individuals who are working hard behind the scenes to secure the UK's Digital Transformation. The DIZ has been selected in the Cross-Sector Digital Collaboration of the Year category and the final placings will now be decided by a public vote which runs until 14 August. The Top 3 in each category will then go into a final round of judging to select the category winners. Anybody can vote by going to <https://digileaders100.com/cross-sector-digital-collaboration> and the winners will be announced in October.

The DIZ is working to be the best-connected place of its type in the UK. A place of innovation and inclusion, where the benefits of digital investment are maximised and shared amongst residents, businesses and visitors from across the area.

Digital Leaders is a shared professional online space and face-to-face programme for leaders across all sectors promoting effective, long-term digital transformation.

Russell Haworth, Chair of Digital Leaders, said:

"The Digital Leaders 100 list 2020 once again highlights the progress in digitally transforming the UK. Our community of Digital Leaders have shone a light on the many hidden heroes, quietly getting on with the nation's digital transformation. It is fabulous to see such a strong list from outside London this year reflecting our own inclusive national programme and the growing importance of digital transformation on companies irrespective of size or sector."

Councillor Alan Lion, Chair of the DIZ and Epping Forest DC Digital Champion & Lead Member, said:

"This is fantastic news from Digileaders, a globally recognised body, and recognition of the partnership work that has been going on across our combined geographies in recent years. The DIZ is looking at how we can develop a smart place across widespread mixed urban and rural economies, rather than focusing on a single town and, as such, is a unique and genuine collaboration driven by District Councils that works across borders and sectors. Being on the leading edge of digital change. We are attracting infrastructure investment and looking at innovative ways to deliver better services for our residents and businesses."

Councillor Linda Haysey, Vice-Chair of the DIZ and Leader of East Herts DC, said

"Digital is transforming the way we live, work and play. It offers endless possibilities to transform the way we provide services and promote our economic resilience at this very challenging time. We don't want our place to be left behind as the digital agenda moves forward and the DIZ is about us coming together to make the most of the opportunities of the digital revolution and manage some of its challenges for the benefit of our people."

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NOTE TO EDITORS

More information on the DIZ is available at [www,diz.org.uk](http://www.diz.org.uk).

The DIZ is made up partners from Essex and Hertfordshire representing local government, health, education, community and voluntary service and the private sector. It covers the districts of Broxbourne, East Herts, Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford. The partnership has worked to attract additional investment including for broadband infrastructure particularly in rural areas, with an announcement on additional investment in healthcare services expected shortly. It has also run a series of knowledge exchange seminars examining digital approaches and impacts for key local challenges, conducted exploratory research on new ways of delivering services and promoted the area as a location for digital investment. Details are available on the website.

For more information contact Mike Warr DIZ Programme Manager on 01992 564472 or by email at mwarr@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

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