

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	Box Ings Lane	Site Address:	Box Ings Lane, Huddersfield, HD8 0SU
National Grid Reference:	E: 419341 N: 411809		
Site Ref Number:	CTIL_306876_00	Site Type: ¹	Macro

2. Pre Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)

(Would not generally apply to upgrades/alterations to existing site including redevelopment or replacement of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

Was a local planning authority mast register available to check for suitable sites by the operator or the local planning authority?	Yes	
If no explain why:		
Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:	Yes	
If no explain why:		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	N/A
Name of contact:	N/A
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:	
A pre-consultation letter and plans were sent to the Local Planning Authority on 23/11/22 with no site specific comments received to date.	

Annual area wide information to planning authority

¹ Macro or Micro

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Has annual area wide information been provided?	No
If no explain why:	
<p>Summary issues raised:</p> <p>“Cornerstones commercial relationship with VM02 has changed, effectively increasing our independence to work with other companies in the deployment of mobile infrastructure. It means we no longer have visibility of VM02 full update plan. However, Cornerstone is fully committed to working closely with Local Planning Authorities and following best practice guidance.</p> <p>We aim to engage and work with the planning department at the earliest opportunity from when we are instructed to deliver new infrastructure within your Local Authority area and often conduct strategic pre-rollout engagement meetings to discuss our wider rollout. If your Local Authority would like a meeting to discuss wider Cornerstone rollout plans then please advise. We recognise the importance of developing long term partnerships and will always work with you to deliver improved mobile connectivity.</p>	

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	Red	Amber	Green
<p>Outline of consultation carried out:</p> <p>Consultation with local Ward Councillor’s for Kirkburton Ward (Cllrs B Amer, R Smith, J Taylor) and Clerk to Kirkburton Parish Council the local MP Mark Eastwood. Pre-application consultation letters and drawings of the proposals were sent to these parties on the 23.11.2022.</p>			
<p>Summary of outcome/main issues raised:</p> <p>No comments to date.</p>			

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School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college): No schools nearby
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation): N/A
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence): N/A

Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator consultation (only required for an application for prior approval)

Will the structure be within 3km of an aerodrome or airfield?		No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified?		N/A
Details of response: N/A		

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?	Yes
Date served:	Developers notice was sent to the site provider via email on 28/04/23. Copies and proof of delivery have been enclosed with the application.

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3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

Background

Cornerstone is the UK's leading mobile infrastructure services company. They acquire, manage and own over 20,000 sites and are committed to enabling best in class mobile connectivity for over half of all the country's mobile customers. They oversee works on behalf of telecommunications providers and wherever possible aim to:

- promote shared infrastructure
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

As part of Cornerstones continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for a new installation at this location to provide improved 2G, 3G, 4G and new 5G coverage and capacity, ensuring that this area of Kirkburton has access to the latest technologies. This follows the inability of the operator to upgrade the existing site.

Cornerstone requires new 5G to be installed on their network in this cell area due to the existing site REF 42338 which is approximately 50m in distance from this proposed site at Box Ings Lane cannot be upgraded due to its proximity to the existing Airwave and T-UK site which would cause technical issues. Therefore the existing site REF 42338 will be removed and a new replacement site for VM02 and is therefore needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies.

The Proposed Site

The proposed site is to be located on private land off Box Ings Lane and it is acknowledged the site is located within the Liverpool, Manchester and West Yorks Greenbelt, the immediate area is of a rural nature. To the north, south and west are agricultural fields to the east are a significant amount of trees. The installation has been sited sensitively to reduce any potential impact on nearby residential properties.

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Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells if appropriate:
<p>The 3G and 4G provision allows internet access, video calling, data downstreaming, accessing social media networks and emailing to name just a few of the benefits. Therefore to maintain high quality indoor 3G and 4G services in to this area would promote activity in line with the general population demand as the ownership of smart devices increases. New 5G service provision will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before.</p>

Type of Structure: Lattice Tower	
Description:	
<p>The installation of a 20-metre-high Lattice Tower supporting 6no Antennas on a headframe; 1no GPS Modules; 2no 300mm Transmission Dishes; 12no. Ericsson Radio Systems ERS; together with 2no. equipment cabinets, 1no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including 300 wide cable ladder on 2no. gantry poles, 2.1m palisade fencing and a 1metre gate.</p>	
Details of the proposed equipment are detailed below.	
Overall Height: 20m including antennas	
Height of existing building (where applicable)	N/A
Equipment Housing: GFMC140 Cabinet (x1)	
Length:	0.470 Metres
Width:	1.000 Metres
Height:	1.000 Metres
Equipment Housing: Percy PSU (x1)	
Length:	0.700 Metres
Width:	0.730 Metres
Height:	1.800 Metres
Equipment Housing: ERS Rack (x1)	
Length:	0.600 Metres
Width:	0.650 Metres
Height:	1.900 Metres
Materials (as applicable):	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Lattice Tower - Galvanised
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Equipment Cabinets – Grey

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Reasons for choice of design, making reference to pre-application responses:

The operators have carefully considered the design of the proposed lattice tower. Due to all the technologies that will be available at this location, 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G, 6 antennas need to be installed on brackets at the top of the lattice tower which is required to support the antennas and are needed to support VM02.

In order to fit in to the operator's network, an additional radio base station is required for VM02 service. The site is needed to provide 2G, 3G, 4G coverage and capacity for VM02 to ensure that its customers can experience access to the latest service provision currently available and have access to a new 5G network. This is because the existing site REF 42338 which is approximately 50m in distance from this proposed site at Box Ings Lane cannot be upgraded due to its proximity to the existing Airwave and T-UK site which would cause technical issues. Therefore the existing site REF 42338 will be removed. The proposed new installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G and new 5G technologies.

The proposed height at 20m is the minimum required in order to provide equivalent coverage to the target coverage area for VM02. 5G new radio technologies operate in higher frequency bands than older technologies. Since it operates at higher frequencies where attenuation of the radio signal is naturally higher and the effects of clutter are greater it will normally require a higher structure to achieve the same coverage footprint. To increase capacity and data speeds to the user, the antenna will normally need to be mounted higher than conventional antennae. These factors drive a requirement for an increase in antenna height in 5G.

The new antennas are all unshrouded for technical reasons. The higher the radio frequency the more signal attenuation there is. The higher frequency 5G antennas are unable to operate effectively through the Glass Reinforced Plastic that a typical telecommunications shroud is made up of and as such if these antennas were to be shielded then they would not be able to provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. Since each GRP antenna is capable of serving a smaller area than an unshrouded antenna, an additional installation would be needed elsewhere within the cell area, leading to the proliferation of masts.

The proposed structure will enable all technologies to be supported from this site. If the lattice tower were to be any slimmer then the technology would not fit in the one installation and another radio base station would be required, which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to national Government guidance set out in the NPPF and The Code of Best Practice.

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The design of the lattice tower with its see through nature allows light will to be able to pass between the supporting arms and tower legs of the lattice tower further reducing visual impact upon the green belt area.

The proposed equipment cabinets and meter cabinet are small for telecommunications apparatus and proposed to be coloured grey that will blend in with the existing surrounding built form in the immediate area.

The 2no. transmission dishes are required in order for the new site link into the operators network they support the base stations functionality and without them the base station would not be able to operate effectively. Therefore, the dishes require a centre line height of 15m.

The ERSs are small each one about the size of a shoe box, whilst the GPS modules are each the size of a tennis ball. They are designed to make the antennas more efficient. Given their height above ground level near the antennas, at approximately 17m for the ERS's and the GPS at lower level, they will not be overly prominent in the area.

It is therefore considered that the proposal before you strikes a good balance between environmental impact and operational considerations. The proposed height and design represents the best compromise between the visual impact of the proposal on the surrounding area and meeting the operator's technical requirements for the site. Taking all matters into account it is considered that this proposal, to provide the latest 2G, 3G and 4G service provision and new 5G ready coverage providing high quality dense coverage and capacity, would not appear out of place within the area.

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Technical Information

<p>International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below)</p> <p>International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection public compliance is determined by mathematical calculation and implemented by careful location of antennas, access restrictions and/or barriers and signage as necessary. Members of the public cannot unknowingly enter areas close to the antennas where exposure may exceed the relevant guidelines.</p> <p>When determining compliance, the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near to the site are taken into account.</p> <p>In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, VM02 Ltd operates its network in such a way the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision</p> <p>As part of VM02 network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way.</p> <p>All operators of radio transmitters are under a legal obligation to operate those transmitters in accordance with the conditions of their licence. Operation of the transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence fulfils the legal obligations in</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
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<p>respect of interference to other radio systems, other electrical equipment, instrumentation, or air traffic systems. The conditions of the licence are mandated by Ofcom, an agency of national government, who are responsible for the regulation of the civilian radio spectrum. The remit of Ofcom also includes investigation and remedy of any reported significant interference.</p> <p>The telecommunications infrastructure the subject of this application accords with all relevant legislation and as such will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest.</p>		
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4. Technical Justification

Enclose predictive coverage plots if appropriate, e.g. to show coverage improvement. Proposals to improve capacity will not generally require coverage plots.

Reason(s) why site required e.g. coverage, upgrade, capacity

A mobile phone transmitter is designed to cover a specific area and links its coverage to the next site in the network, creating a patchwork of overlapping coverage 'cells' across the country. So, if a person is on the move, the network will transfer their calls from one site to the next. However, in certain areas there will be gaps between these cells, resulting in a loss of coverage. This can be for a variety of reasons, the most common being topography or buildings which block the path of the signal. The operators' network rollout programme is designed to identify and address these gaps within their coverage and ensure that people can use their phones whenever and wherever they are.

There is a specific requirement for a new radio base station at this location to allow VM02 to provide 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity in and around Kirkburton whilst also providing the latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision to the local area. This ensures high quality indoor service provision is maintained.

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5. Site Selection Process

Alternative sites considered and not chosen (not generally required for **upgrades/alterations to existing sites** including redevelopment of an existing site to facilitate an upgrade or sharing with another operator)

In accordance with the licence obligations and advice in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Code of Best Practice in England the applicant's network rollout team investigated the following siting and design options using this sequential approach to site selection:

- Upgrading their own existing base stations;
- Using existing telecommunications structures belonging to another communications operator. i.e. Mast and/ or site sharing, co-location;
- Installations on existing high buildings or structures including National Grid pylons;
- Using small scale equipment; and finally
- Erecting a new ground based mast site – (1st) Camouflaging or disguising equipment. (2nd) A conventional installation e.g. a lattice mast and compound.

Site Type	Address	NGR	Reasons
ETS – Existing Telecoms Site	Thunderbridge, Boxings Lane, Thunderbridge, Kirklees, Huddersfield, HD8 0SU	E 419335 N 411741	The site is currently too close the adjacent airwave structure and it would not be possible to upgrade this site without technical issues therefore this option has been discounted
ETS – Existing Telecoms Site	Airwave GF, Boxings Lane, Thunderbridge, Kirklees, Huddersfield, HD8 0SU	E 419339 N 411745	The site is too close to the existing tower and therefore cannot be upgraded without technical issues that cannot

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			be overcome as such this option has been discounted
ETS – Existing Telecoms Site	Existing CTIL Site - 42337 Box ings Lane Thunderbridge Kirklees Huddersfield HD8 0SU		This is the existing CTIL site location. The existing mast is not suitable for upgrading due to close proximity to neighbour sites. This site is to be removed in favour of the new proposed site location

If no alternative site options have been investigated, please explain why:

N/A

Environmental Information:

No specific environmental considerations identified to date.

Land use planning designations:

Liverpool, Manchester and West Yorks Greenbelt.

Additional relevant information (include planning policy and material considerations):

National Planning Guidance

Planning policy is provided at the national level by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is a material consideration in planning decisions.

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It is not necessary to quote extensively from this document but the following points are highlighted.

National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 24 July 2018 and updates the 2012 version. In February 2019 the NPPF was revised again, with minor alterations to wording relating to housing supply and not any parts relating to telecommunications. In July 2021 the NPPF was revised again. Overall, it's been revised to strengthen other sections including requirements on improved design quality, a new requirement for Councils to produce local design codes or guides, an emphasis on using trees in new developments, revised policies on plan-making, removing statues and opting out of PD rights relating to residential conversions. The Government's latest thinking continues to strongly support communications infrastructure. The NPPF remains very supportive of high quality communications. Indeed, a whole chapter is dedicated to high quality communications, emphasising the importance that the Government attaches to digital connectivity. Paragraph 114 states that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being. This wording echoes guidance set out in paragraph 42 of the 2012 version of NPPF. However, it also includes the importance of *reliable* communications infrastructure for both economic growth *and social well-being*.

The NPPF continues to support the expansion of electronic communications networks at paragraph 114. It notes that policies should set out how high quality digital infrastructure, providing access to services from a range of providers, is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time. The economic and social benefits of providing high quality and reliable communications infrastructure are well documented and can be found later in this Supporting Information Statement.

The NPPF makes reference to 5G:

'Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G)...'

With the above in mind, the Government is already forward thinking the evolution of data networks and seeks planning decisions to take account of this. 5G technology provides increased speed of data and more capacity in the network, to ensure that handheld devices can continue to be used for the purposes in which they were purchased. This will bring even greater economic and social benefits to the area.

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Paragraph 115 of the NPPF retains the requirement to minimise the number of installations consistent with the efficient operation of the network but also includes being consistent with the needs of consumers and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion.

Paragraph 118 of the NPPF retains the guidance set out in paragraph 46 of the 2012 NPPF version which relates to determining applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure.

At the heart of the NPPF is the retained presumption in favour of sustainable development (para 11). For decision-taking this means approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay or where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless the application of policies within the revised Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed or any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the revised Framework taken as a whole.

Section 13 relates to Protecting Green Belt Land with Paragraph 137 stating The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

138. Green Belt serves five purposes:

- a) to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b) to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c) to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d) to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e) to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

The NPPF continues to provide guidance in relation to Green Belts by stating in Paragraph 148 When considering any planning application, local planning authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm resulting from the proposal, is clearly outweighed by other considerations

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The NPPF continues to provide guidance on decision-making. At paragraph 38 it states that:

'Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including...permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible'.

The NPPF builds on the aspiration to build a strong, competitive economy. Paragraph 81 states:

'Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking in to account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken, should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation⁴²'...

Footnote 42 of the NPPF states:

'The Government's Industrial Strategy sets out a vision to drive productivity improvements across the UK, identifies a number of Grand Challenges facing all nations, and sets out a delivery programme to make the UK a leader in four of these: artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; future mobility and catering for an ageing society. HM Government (2017) Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future'.

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England (March 2022)

Now, more than ever, reliable digital connectivity is essential for people and businesses. Government have committed to extending mobile geographical coverage across the UK. In order to realise these ambitions, it is essential that the planning system can effectively support the deployment of new mobile infrastructure, as well as network upgrades.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have issued an updated Code of Best Practice which includes changes to further support the deployment of 5G coverage nationally. This Code provides guidance to mobile network operators, their agents

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and contractors and equally to all local planning authorities in England. It supersedes the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2016).

In line with the previous revision of the Code, digital connectivity is identified as being vital to enable people to stay connected and for businesses to grow. The principal aim of this Code is to continue to ensure Government's objective of supporting high quality communications infrastructure, which is key to continued economic prosperity and social inclusion for all.

Principles and Commitment

Paragraph 8 of the revised Code reiterates that fast, reliable digital connectivity can deliver economic, social and well-being benefits for the whole of the UK. The Code continues to acknowledge that as the demand for mobile data in the United Kingdom is increasing rapidly, it is important that everyone can have access to dependable and consistent mobile coverage where they live, work and travel.

The Government recognises the role of Planning in delivering the digital infrastructure that we need, in a sustainable and well-designed way, especially as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity. Paragraph 13 of the Code continues to echo the NPPF guidance in strongly supporting high quality communications infrastructure, which is seen as essential for sustainable economic growth. More specifically that planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technologies (such as 5G) in order to support economic growth across the country.

Given the economic importance of mobile connectivity, the revised Code further emphasises the need for Local Planning Authorities to support the deployment of digital infrastructure. Paragraph 18 states that Local Planning Authorities should demonstrate their support by:

- **Incentivising connectivity:** support the expansion of telecommunications networks and take a 'joined-up' approach to the wireless infrastructure planning process, including ensuring that Local Plans effectively support the deployment of digital infrastructure.
- **Facilitating sites:** engage with operators when new sites have been proposed and discuss site requirements.
- **Engagement with operators:** respond positively to requests for engagement and make decisions in line with national policy and Local Plans. For planning applications, find solutions to issues and ensure timely decisions are made.
- **Information and communication:** ensure that members of the public can access information about any development proposals within their local area.

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Send communications promptly to an appropriate operator contact (or their representatives).

The added emphasis on support from Local Planning Authorities in the deployment in digital infrastructure is even more evident in the revised code. The Code recognises the importance of collaboration and partnership to help drive network coverage across the country. It goes on to state that 'In all instances, it is important for all parties involved in the process to take a positive approach to consultation and engagement'.

Siting and Design Principles

In line with this, is the recognition to continue to ensure that the impact of new network development is kept to a minimum. The Code states that good siting and design principles should continue to apply to all wireless network development and take into account any site-specific considerations and context, both of which can create better places in which to live and work and help make development acceptable to communities.

The Code provides guidance on siting and appearance principles. It sets out several design principles in respect of telecommunications development and acknowledges that the options for design used by an operator will be affected by site conditions including requirements to link the site to the network, landscape features and coverage and capacity requirements.

Paragraphs 25 - 27 sets out siting and site selection principles which Operators should consider including:

- Installation on existing buildings and structures;
- Erecting new ground based masts;
- Camouflaging or disguising equipment where appropriate;
- Using small scale equipment (although small cells themselves are generally used to address capacity issues as opposed to providing coverage); and
- Mast and/or site sharing (including redevelopment of a site to enable upgrade or sharing with another operator).

Key Technical and Operational Considerations

Taking the above into consideration the Code acknowledges the need to balance technical needs and constraints of a proposed site and the potential developmental impacts (Paragraph 26). These constraints are set out in detail in the section 'Technical and Operational Considerations' of the Code. The three key technical and operational considerations for installation sites are:

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- **Coverage:** wireless infrastructure needs to provide an appropriate level of coverage over the intended geographical area. This involves ensuring that antennas are elevated sufficiently (often via masts) to provide clear lines of sight for signals.
- **Capacity:** where existing network infrastructure can no longer meet the demand for network capacity in a particular area, additional sites may be required within that coverage area to meet the demand. This is more likely to be required in densely populated areas or areas of high footfall.
- **Backhaul:** the radio access network requires a connection to the core network. Backhaul is sometimes provided by a microwave link, which requires a clear line of sight between the two ends of the link.

The Code emphasises the need for Local Planning Authorities to take account of these constraints, on network deployment and siting and design, when considering proposals. In relation to the introduction of 5G network deployment the Code acknowledges the requirement of additional equipment to provide necessary coverage and capacity.

Paragraph 66 states that 5G will require a denser network of base stations than previous generations, including more fixed line fibre optic cable for reliable and high capacity backhaul. The siting of 5G installations will be more constrained and guided by these special technical and operational considerations.

Paragraph 67 goes on to note that because of the scale and technological constraints of 5G equipment, previous camouflage design solutions, such as tree mast designs and concealing antennas in flagpoles, may not be practicable or suitable. In these cases, simple designs with particular attention to colouration and finishes may help reduce visual impacts on a site-specific basis.

The revised Code illustrates that mobile connectivity helps in the delivery of public services e.g. to access Central and Local Government via online services, acknowledging that lives are more likely to be saved when a 999 call is made from a mobile than from a landline, Telehealth is becoming increasingly important and text message reminders also improve compliance with medication and keeping NHS appointments.

Good mobile connectivity also promotes sustainability e.g. it reduces the need to travel and thus carbon emissions. The Code continues to support mobile telecommunications network as it is seen as a crucial piece of national infrastructure in economic, community and social terms.

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The Code reiterates that the digital infrastructure must be achieved in a timely and efficient manner, and in a way which balances connectivity imperatives and the economic, community and social benefits that this brings with the environmental considerations that can be associated with such development. Great emphasis is placed on the need to work collaboratively between stakeholders to ensure key digital network deployment and therefore supporting economic growth.

Local Policy

Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that "If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise".

The statutory development plan as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 comprises the Kirklees Local Plan.

The Kirklees Local Plan (February 2019)

The Kirklees Local Plan was adopted on 27th February 2019. It is the statutory development plan for Kirklees. Planning applications must be determined in accordance with it unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Local Plan Strategy and Policies document contains no specific telecommunications development to guide the proposed installation. However, there are relevant sections of the Local Plan which can be taken in to account in the determination of this application as they indicate the latest current aspirations of the Council. This includes Policy LP1 which relates to the presumption in favour of sustainable development which echoes NPPF guidance. It states:

'When considering development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained within the NPPF. The Council will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.

Proposals that accord with the policies in the Kirklees Local Plan...will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

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Where there are no policies relevant to the proposal or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:

- a) Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or
- b) Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted'.

The Local Plan sets out the vision for Kirklees:

'In 2031, Kirklees will be a great place to live, work and invest in...Development will have taken place in a sustainable way (balancing economic, social and environmental priorities) and by making efficient and effective use of land and buildings supported by necessary infrastructure and with minimal effect on the environment...creating opportunities to build thriving communities which respond to local needs.

People will have access to a range of local facilities including services, health-care and education provision, and adequate infrastructure'...

The Strategic Objectives include:

- (1) Support the growth and diversification of the economy, to increase skill levels and employment opportunities including the provision of a high quality communication infrastructure.
- (7) Promote development which helps to reduce and mitigate climate change and development which is adapted so that the potential impact from climate change is reduced to help the transition towards a low carbon economy.

There are no specific telecommunications or greenbelt policies therefore weight is afforded to the NPPF however the following are of relevance:

Policy LP4 'Providing Infrastructure' states that the council will work with partners to bring forward the necessary and proportionate essential and desirable infrastructure that is required in order to deliver the spatial strategy as set out in the Local Plan.

Policy LP24 relates to design and outlines that proposals should promote good design. This can be achieved by, amongst other things, ensuring that the form, scale, layout

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and details of all development respects and enhances the character of the townscape.

Supporting paragraph 11.8 of Policy LP24 discusses telecommunications infrastructure directly and outlines that this should be capable of accommodating changes in technological requirements...

Online Nation 2021 Report (June 2021)

The importance of the internet and access to smartphones is acknowledged within the latest Online Nation 2021 Report (June 2021). The report notes that the pandemic has highlighted the importance of being online and driven changes in the take-up and use of internet services, as many people have had a critical reliance on the internet for communications, information, entertainment and commerce. Increases in internet use in 2020 were most pronounced in spring and November 2020 lockdowns, as people turned to the internet and were more dependent than ever on online services for video calling for socialising or home-based working, home schooling, keeping in touch, films and gaming, shopping and information about the pandemic.

In September 2020, UK Internet users spent nearly 4 times as much time on smartphones than they did on computers. 68% of the time spent online was via smartphones up 4% from September 2019, this was compared to 18% of time spent on line via computers and 13% via tablets.

By the end of 2020 approximately 94% of UK homes had internet access, up from 89% in 2019. Video calling became an important way for people to keep in touch during the pandemic. Zoom went from a few hundred thousand users in the first few months of 2020 to more than 13 million in April and May 2020. This has dropped to 10.4 million users in March 2021, while platforms used mainly for work and education, notably Microsoft Teams have shown a sustained increase in use (13.7 million users in March 2021m up by 5.3 million year on year).

The report found that most of the time people spend on the internet is via apps on mobile devices. Online services were a crucial way for people to find out information about the pandemic, and for governments to try and track and control the spread of the virus.

The report acknowledged that the internet helped most children continue their education throughout lockdown. Virtually all households with school-aged children had access to the internet at home. 7% did not have fixed broadband and 4% had access only to a mobile phone. 1 in 5 did not have access to an appropriate device for their schoolwork all the time. The Report found that 2020 saw the rapid adoption

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of digital remote education by teachers, parents and children such as video conferencing, and platforms for setting and collecting work. In the first few weeks of lockdown in spring 2020, two thirds of children in England were not receiving any live or recorded lessons. By January 2021, this was down to just one in ten. The Report suggests that the use of these platforms may continue such as for those who can't attend school due to illness, or to provide additional revision materials.

Nine in ten 8 – 15 year olds who use social-media said it helped them to feel closer to their friends in 2020. The report stated that social video services offer huge benefits for users and the economy. They provide a platform for self-expression through enabling user-generated content (31% of adults and 40% of 13-17 year olds post video content).

Lockdown influenced the types of social video that were most popular such as the first episode of Joe Wickes' PE which was the most viewed YouTube video of 2020, and videos relating to home baking such as sourdough bread increased by 458%.

Social media serves as a means of entertainment and education for many (used by 97% of adult internet users), and as an important method of marketing for businesses (online video advertising grew by 23% in the UK in 2020).

On line retail spend in the UK increased by 48% in 2020 (compared to an average annual increase of 13% in the previous 4 years). Online's share of retail spend increased from approximately 20% in 2019 to 35% in the spring lockdown and 30% in December 2020. By December 2020 11% of the UK grocery market sales were online, up from 5% at the beginning of the year. Online food delivery services also increased in demand. Just Eat being the most popular with its UK orders up 58% higher in the last quarter of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

People have relied on the internet for news and information throughout the pandemic. During the spring 2020 lockdown 52% of people said that news and current affairs was one of their main reasons to go online.

The report found that 91% of households used smartphones to access the internet in 2021, compared to 65% who used tablets and 47% who accessed the internet using computers. The report also noted that 61% of UK adults who access the internet did so using both computers and smart devices.

The Report notes that the smartphone is the most-used device for accessing the internet for all age groups apart from those aged 65 +. It found that in 2020, 85% of internet users aged 16 + used a smartphone to go online, compared to nearly 75% accessing the internet via a computer and just over 50% using a tablet to access the internet. One in ten adults also stated that they only use a smartphone to go online

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and three in ten used their phone to complete an online form or app on a weekly basis.

In February 2021 the Government said that more than 1.7 million app users across England and Wales had been advised to isolate by the NHS COVID-19 app, following close contact with someone who had tested positive.

Levelling Up the United Kingdom (February 2022)

Digital Connectivity is a focus area and the mission is 'By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population'. This mission is focused on improving digital connectivity.

Digital connectivity: The case for action

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of digital infrastructure right across society, from ensuring business continuity to reducing isolation. Improved digital connectivity has the potential to drive growth and productivity across the UK and widen job opportunities through remote working. However, there are significant spatial disparities in the quality of broadband and mobile networks, with rural areas likely to experience worse digital connectivity than urban areas. Infrastructure is only part of the picture: economic benefits will only materialise if businesses and workers have the skills to take advantage of improved infrastructure.

More broadly, high quality digital infrastructure can deepen local labour markets through remote working, making it more attractive for both workers and companies to locate regionally. It also allows for the development of high-value sectoral clusters, which can drive growth and jobs in new areas. Existing specialisms in the UK regions have the potential to generate strong tech clusters, such as fintech in Scotland and Wales, e-Commerce in the North West and Northern Ireland, and Agri-Tech in Yorkshire and the Humber. The sector also provides opportunities for raising living standards – median earnings for the sector are 50% higher than the UK average.

The policy programme

In 2020, the UK Government published the National Infrastructure Strategy, committing to providing £5bn in public funding to roll out gigabit broadband to at least 85% of the country by 2025, and subsequently to as close to 100% as possible, working with the private sector.

Public investment will target premises that are hardest to reach and which would otherwise not be provided for by the private sector, ensuring no areas are left behind. Gigabit coverage has increased from 10% to over 60% in less than two years. Since

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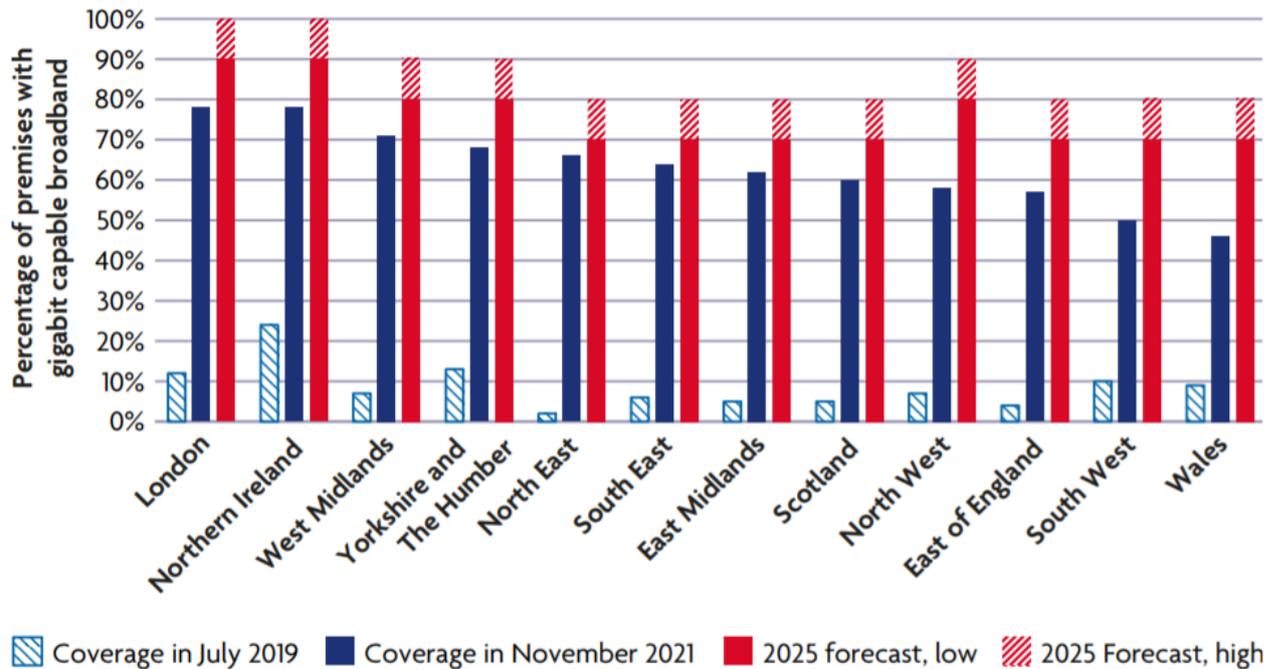
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2019, coverage has improved across the UK, and the UK Government anticipates the following additional improvements to be delivered as a minimum by 2025, as set out below.

Figure 3.1 Gigabit coverage improvements, UK countries and regions, 2019, 2021 and 2025 (forecast)



Source: Levelling Up the United Kingdom.

In 2022, the UK Government will publish the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. This will review how far the private sector will go to deliver wireless infrastructure across the country and determine whether there are any market failures in places that need to be addressed, and how the UK Government could tackle these.

We must ensure that people have sufficient digital skills to reap the benefits and prosperity arising from the digital economy. In 2020, the UK Government introduced a new digital skills entitlement, giving adults with low or no digital skills in England free access to new digital skills qualifications based on employer-supported national standards. The UK Government continues to work with local leaders to develop Local Digital Skills Partnerships. These collaborative partnerships are now operating in seven regions across England, with an eighth formally launching in Hull and East Yorkshire in early March. The UK Government will work with devolved administrations to consider how best to share the insights and evaluation of the programme to help build digital skills capability across the UK.

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Planning Issues

The main issues arising from this prior approval notification are whether the proposed lattice tower and cabinets due to their scale and siting would be a visually obtrusive feature which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area. Whether any perceived harm would outweigh the significant social and economic benefits associated with the increased service provision attributed to the proposal and other valid material considerations as outlined within NPPF, the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

It is acknowledged that the site is located within an area designated as Green Belt however this installation in the Green Belt is required at this location to provide improved 2G, 3G, 4G and new 5G coverage. The harm to the openness of the green belt would be limited given the nature, scale and siting of the additional equipment. It is also noted the operators existing site which is to be removed is within the green belt as is two other operators sites.

Telecommunications installations are essential infrastructure. Therefore they will not conflict with the purposes of the Green Belt. Indeed, this applications radio base station will not lead to further sprawl of built up areas. This radio base station in the Green Belt would not cause neighbouring towns to merge into one another and it would not see the urbanisation of the countryside. An existing radio base station has already been considered acceptable within the green belt however as stated cannot be upgraded. Consequently, the proposed scheme would not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt in line with the NPPF.

In an appeal at Bolton Golf Club (PINS ref: APP/N4205/A/11/2169164) concludes that the harm to the green belt would be outweighed by the need for the development, which is a similar situation to the proposed scheme, the subject of this application. The Inspector found that the siting of the proposed installation adjacent to substantial tree screening will greatly minimise its impact on local visual amenity and together with the nature and scale of the scheme ensures that it does not lead to the loss of openness in the Green Belt.

Existing sites have already become an established feature within the area and Green Belt, and this installation will serve as a replacement being located on private land away from the highway. There are also a number of trees in the area which ensures the proposed lattice tower will not be out of place and better assimilate into the area. These trees will also help soften the visual impact on the proposed lattice tower and cabinets. Consequently, the visual impact will be minimised upon the area. This is in full accordance with the NPPF, the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

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The principle of development has been established by the Government when the new permitted development rights came in to force in November 2016 and amended in 2022, which enabled sites such as this one to be built under the operators permitted development rights, (as the lattice height does not exceed 25m), with prior approval for siting and appearance being the only matters that the local planning authority can take in to consideration.

Planning Practice Guidance explains how a prior approval application differs from a planning application at paragraph 28. It states that:

'The statutory requirements relating to prior approval are much less prescriptive than those relating to planning applications. This is deliberate, as prior approval is a light- touch process which applies where the principle of the development has already been established (emphasis added). Where no specific procedure is provided in the General Permitted Development Order, local planning authorities have discretion on what processes they put in place. It is important that a local planning authority does not impose unnecessarily onerous requirements on developers, and does not seek to replicate the planning application system' (emphasis added).

The Planning Portal also provides Application Type Guidance. This guidance states that:

'Certain forms of telecommunication development, for example, mobile telephone masts, are known as 'permitted development' and subject to prior approval from the local planning authority. The prior approval procedure means that the principle of development is not an issue. The LPA can only consider the siting and appearance of the proposal'.

Siting

The siting of the proposed radio base station has been carefully considered. To this end, it is located, on private land in a break of the residential nature of the area, where demand for service provision is high from a range of types of users including residential and business premises of Kirkburton. The site set within the context of a rural nature where there are numerous semi-mature trees to allow parts of the installation to be shielded from certain vantage points. This is in accordance with the NPPF, the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

The operator's lattice tower and equipment cabinets will be positioned within the fenced compound thus will reduce their prominence. Consequently, the context of the site is consistent with its location on private land by which a lattice towers would

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not appear to be uncommon. This is in full accordance with the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan.

The operator's equipment cabinets given their limited height and scale will ensure that these cabinets will not be detrimental to the visual amenity of the area and will be finished in a grey colour that will aide in the equipment assimilating with the existing area. However, the cabinets can be coloured any other colour that the LPA considers appropriate. Accordingly, the application is acceptable in visual amenity terms and will not have an unacceptable impact on residential amenity.

In line with the requirements of NPPF, there are no existing suitable telecommunications installations for the operator to share, that would provide the necessary coverage to the target coverage area. Similarly there are no buildings which are suitable and available that the operator could utilise to operate their equipment. The discounted options are set out in Section 5 above and their reasons for being discounted are fully explained.

3G and 4G signals by their very nature (as they carry high data rates) do not penetrate over long distances, (5G even less so), just a few hundred metres, depending on the topography of the land, building clutter and vegetation including trees in the area which can reduce their effectiveness. Therefore 3G, 4G and 5G radio base stations need to be close to their customer demand which is normally in residential areas. In addition to this, this is a replacement new site for VM02 who is unable to provide the latest 4G and new 5G technology from the existing site, due to its proximity to other base stations.

In line with paragraph 115 of the NPPF, the operator has demonstrated that there is a need for the proposed development. A rational for site selection has been set out as well as detailed information on the operators approach to potential site sharing opportunities. The application package is accompanied by evidence of the operators pre-application consultation exercise and pre-application communication with the Local Planning Authority. The application package is accompanied by an ICNIRP certificate that demonstrates compliance with all relevant ICNIRP standards.

The lattice tower and antennas do not emit any noise, odour, vibration, artificial light or disturbance from air. The only noise emitted is from a cooling fan within the equipment cabinets, which only operate during hot weather conditions. However, within a few metres the noise is inaudible. Given the sites location on private land and a significant distance from residential properties this will prevent any noise emissions from being heard by occupants in properties. The proposed installation will not cause any traffic generation as it is not a visitor destination. Maintenance of the equipment

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cabinets is usually once a year, where the engineer can walk to site with hand held tools.

The ERSs are small for telecommunications apparatus. They are designed to make the antennas more efficient. In order to maximise signal efficiency the ERSs need to be as close as possible to the antennas, hence they need to be located near the antennas towards on the lattice tower. Given their height above ground level and their small size approximately that of a shoe box for the ERS's they will not appear prominent in the area as they will be out of the general eye line of casual passers-by.

Appearance

In line with the guidance set out in the NPPF, the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan the visual impact on the area has been minimised. The radio base station is proposed to be a lattice tower which is required to provide the latest technologies. Given the makeup of the area that includes semi-mature trees and thus will not appear out of place within the area which will be well shielded from certain vantage points given the number of semi-mature trees in the vicinity and thus reducing impact upon the Green Belt.

The top of the lattice tower requires 6no. antennas on a headframe. This ensures that the operators can provide 2G coverage, 3G and 4G services and provide new 5G coverage and capacity to this area of Kirkburton. The installation of this lattice tower in this location on private land will not appear prominent.

The lattice tower design is a technical requirement for the operators without which they would not be able to fit all their technology within the structure and therefore an additional structure would be required within the cell area which would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to national guidance.

This is a key site for the operator and is considered necessary in order to meet their 4G and 5G license obligations. Therefore, the proposed scheme is very significant in order to ensure that the national network is seamlessly linked from cell area to cell area, and that key settlements such as Kirkburton to get the connectivity they require in order for the customer to be able to continue to utilise their handsets for the purposes in which they were designed for.

Light will still be able to pass between the supporting arms and tower legs of the lattice tower. The lattice tower is proposed to be galvanised to blend in with and assimilate with an often grey sky.

In order to provide all technologies 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G for VM02 on the same installation there is a requirement for 6 antennas and a proposed height of 20m. The

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technical reasons for the antennas being unshrouded and the proposed height have been fully explained in the reasons for design choice earlier in this supporting statement. currently being utilised by the operators at the existing radio base station.

The 2no. Transmission dishes are required to provide link into the operators network and required a clear line of sight at a centre line height of 15m. without these transmission dishes the radio base station would not be able to function.

The poorer propagation of the latest 4G and new 5G antennas means that if the lattice tower were to be any lower, the antennas would not be able the urban clutter and as such would not be able to operate effectively. A lower height would lead to a poor user experience for a large part of the target coverage area. As such, this would fail the operators design brief and an additional installation would be required leading to the proliferation of masts contrary to national planning guidance contained in the NPPF.

The equipment cabinets are small for telecommunications equipment. The proposed equipment cabinets are the least amount of cabinets that can be installed in this location and enable the radio base station to operate. If the number of cabinets were to be reduced then there would not be sufficient room to house all the operators equipment. In order to help blend in with their surroundings they are proposed to be coloured grey to match the lattice tower, although they can be coloured any other colour that the council considers to be appropriate.

Lack of Coverage – Material Consideration

In accordance with the NPPF, the proposed installation is significant to enable continuous coverage of the telecommunication network, ensuring that the area in and around this part of Kirkburton get the mobile coverage it needs for VM02 customers as well as new 5G coverage. It will also maintain and improve coverage for the Mobile Virtual Network Operator's (MVNOs) which use the VM02 network which includes GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, Talk Talk Mobile, and Lyca Mobile. So the proposal will not only provide a service for one operator but those who buy network space off them, which is at least 5 with VM02. This will provide a choice for those customers who consider the level of coverage in their area when selecting which operator they agree future contracts with.

The current proposals will facilitate the development of an advanced broadband telecommunications infrastructure in line with National Government guidance contained within the NPPF which supports infrastructure especially where growth takes place. By providing the latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision the proposals will support the aspirations of Central Government for everyone to have

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access to the superfast highway network wherever they are and that the majority of the population have access to a 5G service by 2027.

The proposed radio base station will also fully comply with the vision and objectives of the Kirklees Local Plan by helping to improve employment and quality of life in the district. There is an identified need for this installation to ensure that the latest 4G and 5G technology can be brought to this area of Kirkburton, ensuring there is sufficient capacity in the network to prevent buffering as greater demands on the network lead to additional pressure on capacity. If there is insufficient capacity then even if coverage is available customers would increasingly be unable to utilise their handheld devices for the manner in which they have become accustomed. Filling this lack of 4G capacity and providing the latest 5G technology to the area is fully in line with the requirements of the NPPF and Central Government aspirations.

Trials have already begun across the UK to demonstrate the potential of 5G and how it can improve and drive productivity and efficiency. In June 2019, West Midlands 5G partnered with BT and University Hospitals Birmingham to trial the UK's first 5G Connected Ambulance. Real-Time communications between the paramedics and the hospital doctors enabled the effective diagnosis of the patient at an early stage of care. The trial showed how a paramedic performed a remote-controlled ultrasound scan on a patient in an ambulance over a public 5G network. These trials show how digital connectivity and technology can reduce patient waiting times and save lives (Source: WM5G).

The proposal will provide world-class connections and access to opportunity for all in this cell area, as well as providing world-class digital infrastructure which provides the platform for this area of Jesmond to embrace emerging technologies and societal changes. The latest 4G and 5G infrastructure is fundamental to enable digital technologies to continue to function. The proposal will ensure that any VM02 customer and the MVNO's who buy network space off this operator in this cell area will be able to access resilient, seamless connectivity at a speed they need anywhere at any time. Without the more basic technology solutions such as 4G and 5G, smart-region solutions and value-added outcomes will struggle to be brought to fruition.

Mobiles can only work with a network of base stations in place where people want to use their mobile phones or other wireless devices. Without base stations, the mobile phones and other devices we rely on simply won't work.

Without this new site, the operator's customers would experience increasing numbers of dropped calls and buffering unable to access the internet on their handheld devices. They would also not be able to access the 5G network, a demand which is increasing rapidly as customers update their handheld devices to ones that are 5G compatible. If the 5G network is not available then the customers' would not be able

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to utilise these handheld devices for the purposes in which they were purchased. This would be contrary to the aspirations of Central Government aspirations of connectivity. Which aspires to everyone having access to the superfast highway network wherever they are, and that the majority of the population have access to a 5G service by 2027.

The proposed installation will help improve the area's economic prosperity, strengthen the urban economy's by supporting local businesses to start, grow, adapt and diversify. It will support a better environment for today and tomorrow by reducing the need to travel and in turn minimise carbon emissions, in line with the local plan. The radio base station will support the delivery of healthcare provision and accessibility by enabling people greater access to online services, NHS appointment reminders, reminders to take medicines, make appointments etc. As well as assisting hospital outpatient appointments and emergency consultations carried out remotely via video link, connected ambulances, live streaming of CCTV footage etc.

By enhancing the 2G, 3G and 4G service provision to the surrounding area and providing new 5G coverage into the operator's network, this would fully support the aim of ending to digital disadvantage.

The way 5G works, it is closely connected with the Smart City agenda and will enable centralized control of lots of different street infrastructure owned or managed by councils, such as street lights, water meters and bus stops. As such areas need the 21st century infrastructure to enable this objective to become a reality. The proposed installation will ensure that this aspiration is fully met.

The Councillor's Guide to Digital Connectivity notes that a survey conducted by the Confederation of British Industry found that 81% of firms said that they see more reliable mobile connectivity as essential. Studies have also shown that mobile broadband is associated with positive impacts nationally, such as higher GDP and increased employment.

The Government fully supports high quality communications infrastructure, even more so with the advent of 5G. The NPPF continues to strongly support telecommunications connectivity and states at paragraph 114 that local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks. It acknowledges that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being.

The demand for mobile data in the UK is increasing rapidly, and as households and businesses become increasingly reliant on mobile connectivity, the infrastructure must be in place to ensure supply does not become a constraint on future demand.

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The installation in this location will fill the current gap in the latest high quality service provision and enable VM02 and MVNOs who buy network space off VM02 to maintain access to their handheld devices wherever they are for the purposes in which they were purchased. This is fully in line with the Government's aspirations that everyone has access to the superfast communications network, contained within the NPPF.

Access to the internet in whatever medium now impacts every facet of our lives but only benefits those who can access and use it. The benefits of internet connectivity are key for both residents and businesses alike and an installation in this location providing the latest 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G technologies will support the Central Government objectives to improve connectivity infrastructure to speed up economic and business growth.

In line with guidance contained within the NPPF for Growth aspirations of connectivity a new radio base station in this location will enable fast, reliable, secure internet accessibility wherever the user is located. The proposed installation would fully meet the latest operators' coverage and capacity requirements for 3G and 4G provision as well as 5G provision for the operator. This would be wholly in line with the Government's latest aspirations to strongly support advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure, essential for economic growth and social well-being. Where the NPPF notes that decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks. An installation outside this search area, regardless of whether there are existing sites, would not allow the operator to provide their desired level of coverage and therefore would not adequately maintain and provide new coverage and capacity.

As part of the operators 4G licence obligations, many customers will benefit significantly from a vastly improved service provision in this locality. They will be able to gain access to the very latest technologies and connectivity, to high speed data services. Digital technology has catalysed the interconnection of the global economy, with the internet enabling the free exchange of goods and services, providing consumers with greater choice and businesses with access to skills, resources and customers. Installing telecommunications equipment at this site will help Jesmond to meet its aim of having effective and efficient infrastructure to support investment.

The Code of Best Practice acknowledges that upgrading and improving mobile networks will not be possible without the necessary infrastructure on which we rely. With increasing consumer demand and the Government's aspirations for high quality communications infrastructure it is ever more important to improve connectivity and capacity.

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In the Code of Best Practice it acknowledges 'the pressure on networks to upgrade and improve networks through changes to existing sites and the development of new sites is constant. With the increasing consumer demand and the Government's ambitious aspirations it is becoming more important to improve connectivity and capacity. This is due to the ever increasing demand for data hungry applications to be available to a range of connected devices, such as smartphones and tablet computers. However, the Code notes that upgrading and improving mobile networks will not be possible without the necessary infrastructure on which they rely'. Therefore there is a significant need to locate the equipment in this area.

The Online Nation 2021 Report highlights the importance of continued access to the latest technology on mobile devices, with 35% of the internet users only accessing the internet on mobile devices (Smartphone or tablet).

The Report goes on to note that 60% of the consumer market consider smartphones are now the most important device for internet access. In September 2019, 81% of time spent online was on a mobile device (both tablet and Smartphone). Furthermore, nearly half of all adults consider that their mobile device is the device they would miss most if it were taken away.

It is therefore imperative that the operator continues to invest in ensuring that the latest technologies are available on its network, so that customers are able to continue to use their handheld devices wherever they are, for whatever reason, for the purposes in which they were purchased.

Economic and Social Benefits

The NPPF strongly supports sustainable development, as does, the vision and objectives of the Kirklees local plan. Mobile communication plays a significant role in sustainable development. Being able to access the internet via a mobile device allows people to access a wide range of central and local government services buy groceries, manage finances, apply for jobs/university, and carry out school projects, send emails, download applications, send and receive instant messages, participate in social media, streaming and downloading data to name just a few of the benefits of being able to use an internet enabled handheld device. It also allows people to work from home or on the move without needing to return to the office. Residents and businesses will enjoy better accessibility, assisting home-base working by improving the electronic means of communication and the roll-out of high-speed broadband helping to promote live-work development. This reduces travel time, carbon emissions and increases the speed in which information is processed/shared.

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The proposals therefore fully comply with NPPF, to minimise the effects of climate change reducing the need to travel and therefore the carbon footprint.

In such instances, as described above, the NPPF supports development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. Enhancing the 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity in this area and providing new 5G services will fully meet this national policy objective.

Mobile connectivity is essential to the future success of the economy. The combined value of 4G and 5G mobile connectivity is estimated to add £18.5bn to the economy by 2026 (Councils and Connectivity Sept 2018). Mobile connectivity is essential to creating a better society. Digital inclusion can help people gain employment, become more financially secure and improve health and well-being. Mobile connectivity is essential to fulfilling the potential of new technologies. Innovations such as artificial intelligence and connected cars will change how we work, spend our leisure time and run our public services.

Providing the latest digital infrastructure to enable improvements in digital technology empowers and enables residents to have the highest quality of life, supports the creation of high quality jobs and achieves the maximum productivity levels. It also helps the economy to be resilient and competitive. This is in full accordance with the vision of the local plan. It will help Jesmond become an area where its businesses, public service providers and citizens are using digital technology by default and to the fullest to grow their businesses and improve productivity to access skills, training and employment opportunities to address global challenges that have a local impact such as ill health, social isolation, and pollution; to improve living standards and well-being, helping people to lead prosperous and rewarding lives; and to improve the quality and value for money of public services.

The enclosed Cornerstone Local Authority Engagement Brochure September 2020, emphasises further the benefits of high quality mobile connectivity including: promoting economic growth by attracting investment from business, which creates jobs and regional prosperity in line with national and local Economic Strategies; helps local businesses to offer a broader range of services, boosting the local economy; helps local Councils to offer online services such as school admissions and local information for residents supports local companies by facilitating working from home, offers social benefits such as being able to connect with vulnerable family and friends (a life line during COVID 19 lockdown) or contact the emergency services 24/7, and helps local councils to offer online services such as paying council tax bills which provides a more efficient service to name but a few benefits.

Practical Applications of 5G Connectivity as Example of Material Soci-Economic Benefit: -

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Education:

The relationship between 5G and education is evolving at a massive rate with educators exploring the relevance of Virtual Reality (VR) technologies for education and training. Crucially, VR can support remote learning, allowing students a presence in the classroom even when working elsewhere.

5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security will also allow learning on the job, thanks to technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) goggles, which can give engineers real-time instructions on how to fix a machine on a production line, for example.

Health:

Patients across the country are now becoming accustomed to relying on remote healthcare services such as NHS 111, virtual GP appointments, and ordering online deliveries of essential medical supplies.

5G will prove critical in providing the infrastructure required to deliver remote health services over the next decade. By design, 5G's ability to deliver real-time information (low latency), ultra-fast speeds (critical for high definition images and video), increased capacity and heightened security are going to be fundamental in scaling the patient benefits of remote healthcare and keeping medical records secure and private. For instance, trials have shown that connecting ambulance crews to expert resources using 5G allows paramedics to work with doctors and conduct specialist procedures in real time whilst on the road.

There is a demand for mobile connectivity in areas where geography, logistics or economics – or a combination of all 3, make it difficult. Mobile network capacity needs to grow to meet the demand of mobile users, who are consuming ever increasing amounts of data.

Paragraph 38 of the NPPF states that:

'Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including...permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible'.

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Providing improved 3G and 4G coverage and capacity and new 5G service provision in this area will fully meet paragraph 38 of the NPPF.

The social and economic benefits are a significant material consideration which should be weighed against the visual impact associated with the proposed radio base station in this location. HM Treasury outlined such benefits in its report 'Fixing the Foundations: Creating a More Prosperous Nation' – July 2015. Paragraph 7.1 of the plan stated that reliable and high quality fixed and mobile broadband connections support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. They enable new and more efficient business processes, access to new markets and support flexible working and working from home.

Paragraph 7.2 goes on to highlight strong support for high quality communications infrastructure. It states

'by reducing red tape and barriers to investment, the Government will support the market to deliver the internationally competitive fixed and mobile digital communications infrastructure the UK's businesses need to thrive and grow, and which will enable the UK to remain at the forefront of the digital economy. The Government is working with business so that the market can play the lead role in delivering against the ambitions set out in the Digital Communications Infrastructure Strategy, published March, of near universal 4G and ultrafast broadband coverage.'

Indeed, MPs have noted in parliament that the UK's Superfast Broadband connectivity was 'relatively poor' and businesses were losing out from patchy coverage.

The Government recognises that widespread coverage of mobile connectivity is essential for people and businesses. People expect to be connected where they live, work, visit and travel. That is why the Government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage further across the UK, with continuous mobile connectivity provided to all major roads and to being a world leader in 5G.

This will allow everyone in the country to benefit from the economic advantages of widespread mobile coverage. As well as improved mobile signal, 5G networks are also crucial to drive productivity and growth across the sectors that local areas are focusing on through their emerging Local Industrial Strategies. Enabling and planning for 5G implementation is central to achieving the Government's objective to deliver property at the local level and enable all places to share in the proceeds of growth.

The Government is determined to ensure the UK receives the coverage and connectivity it needs. To this end, the Government wants to be a world leader in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and for communities to benefit from the

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investments in the new technology. The Local Industrial Strategy aspirations align with the Government objectives of utilising the opportunities that 5G will bring. The proposed installation will fully support these national and local aspirations.

The case for 5G is compelling as it will bring faster, more responsive and reliable connections than ever before. More than any previous generation of mobile networks, 5G has the potential to improve the way people live, work and travel, and to deliver significant benefits to the economy and industry through the ability to connect more devices to the Internet at the same time, creating the so-called “Internet of Things”. This will enable communities to manage traffic flow and control energy usage, monitor patient health remotely, and increase productivity for business and farmers, all through the real-time management of data.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has produced a Councillor’s Guide to Digital Connectivity and sets out some of the benefits of 5G technology:

- Faster mobile broadband and a more consistent experience in congested areas with a very high number of devices.
- Industrial applications, enabling businesses to improve their productivity, for example through predictive maintenance and real-time analytics.
- Internet of Things (IoT) services, many of which will help council’s and businesses deliver services more efficiently including:
 - o Transport and logistics: connected parcels and fleet tracking.
 - o Health and social care.
 - o Environmental monitoring: sensors monitoring air quality and water pollution in real-time.
 - o Smart agriculture and smart animal farming, smart retailing.
 - o Connected and autonomous cars: allowing cars to communicate with each other, other road users and even the road infrastructure.

Further to the Government’s commitment to improve connectivity, on 24th November 2016 the new permitted development rights for telecommunication operators came into force, designed to lift the restrictions on mobile operators such is the significance and weight the Government place upon the benefits attached to modern connectivity.

A National Needs Assessment – A Vision for UK Infrastructure was also published in October 2016 ([https://www.ice.org.uk/getattachment/media-and-policy/policy/national-needs-assessment-a-vision-for-uk-infrastr/National-Needs-Assessment-PDF-\(1\).pdf.aspx](https://www.ice.org.uk/getattachment/media-and-policy/policy/national-needs-assessment-a-vision-for-uk-infrastr/National-Needs-Assessment-PDF-(1).pdf.aspx)). It sets out the infrastructure needs for the UK which includes the importance of digital technology. An extract of this assessment can be found below:

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'A lack of digital connectivity has a detrimental effect on business operations, productivity and output and hence competitiveness in the global marketplace. Securing digital connectivity is thus critical to the UK's long-term prosperity. A key challenge for the digital sector is a persistent digital divide between those who have access to the latest technologies and those who do not, with resulting social and economic exclusion, particularly as dependence on e-services and digital communications increases'

The Assessment goes on to note that 'Universal digital connectivity would serve as an equaliser of economic opportunity in that it enables participation in a modern digital economy'. Therefore, this Needs Assessment further explains the consequences of a lack of coverage and the effects this has on social and economic prosperity. This clearly highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing high quality 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity in Jesmond as well as providing new 5G in this area, where the social and economic benefits will outweigh the environmental considerations.

The Government's continued strong support for connectivity is further evidenced by the DCMS who launched their UK wide Digital Connectivity Portal on 20 December 2018. The Digital connectivity portal provides guidance for local authorities and network providers on improving connectivity in local areas. The Government wants everyone in the UK to benefit from world-class connectivity no matter where they live, work or travel. The Future Telecommunications Infrastructure Review outlines a package of measures to create the right market and policy conditions to deliver world-class connectivity for citizens and businesses. As a result, the pressure to install a radio base station in this area of the region to provide 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G is significant.

On the 23 September 2020, the Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman MP spoke about the ongoing work by the Government and telecoms industry to boost the UK's world class digital connectivity in his keynote speech at Connected Britain 2020:

...'I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the industry for their tireless efforts at keeping us all connected through an unprecedented period of disruption.

...COVID has altered the way we live, work and most importantly, stay connected with our family and friends. The digital infrastructure that keeps us all connected was essential to our daily way of life under lockdown – and is now more important than ever as we head into recovery. Many of these changes – such as increased working from home – will stay with us for the foreseeable future.

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People have referred to the internet as “the fourth utility” – and it’s true. For countless people across the country, having fast and reliable broadband and a good mobile connection is as essential and vital to our daily lives as gas, water and electricity.

That’s why I’m committed to working with you to ensure the entire nation has access to world-class, next generation gigabit connectivity that is secure and resilient enough to deal with all sorts of future challenges.

This Government is ambitious for the UK’s digital infrastructure.

And because we know that more citizens are increasingly living their lives online, we will be one of the earliest adopters of 5G coverage, with the majority of the population able to access 5G by 2027.

...We know how important local authorities are to the delivery of digital infrastructure, which is why I have written to them, together with the Local Government Minister, to outline how they can work more effectively with the industry...

...Turning to 5G, while the commercial rollout of 5G continues at pace, we’re pushing ahead with plans to make sure all sorts of industries benefit from this game-changing technology.

...since the start of the 5G Testbeds and trials programme, we’ve now funded 24 5G testbeds across the UK. Between them, those testbeds have trialled almost 70 different 5G technologies, products and applications. And more importantly than ever, we are investing in a range of sectors to foster, build and grow 5G cross wider industry...

...The world is in the middle of a digital revolution. COVID has accelerated this process, digitising almost every part of our everyday lives and making the infrastructure that connects us more important than ever. That’s why it is at the top of the government’s agenda...

This Keynote Speech by Matt Warman MP highlights the importance that Government places on 5G and advanced, reliable, high quality 5G technology. To prevent this technology from being brought into the area would be contrary to the Government’s key aims.

In a more recent letter published by the Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman MP on the 24 May 2021 addressed to the local authority chief executives he spoke further about the Government’s Commitment to extending mobile coverage:

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'Digital connectivity is – now, more than ever – vital to enable people to stay connected and businesses to grow. The demand for mobile data is increasing rapidly, and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is that we all have access to reliable, high quality mobile connectivity...

...The Government is committed to extending mobile network coverage across the UK and providing uninterrupted mobile signal on all major roads, and our ambition is for the majority of the population to have access to a 5G signal by 2027...

...The National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") for England states that planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology, such as 5G...

...In relation to electronic communications development, it also states that local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only and they should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, or question the need for an electronic communications system. As set out in planning practice guidance, it is in the public interest for local planning authorities to have effective delegation arrangements in place to ensure that decisions on planning applications that raise no significant planning issues are made quickly and that resources are appropriately concentrated on the applications of greatest significance to the local area'

On the 1 October 2020, as part of the Speed up Britain Campaign, The Centre of Policy Studies Report published 'Upwardly Mobile: How the UK can gain the full benefits of the 5G revolution'. The report identifies what the 5G opportunities are and what the Government needs to do so we can all benefit from this vital new technology. It states that delays to the rollout of 5G could cost the country tens of billions of pounds in lost economic output. The former Government advisers Alex Jackman and Nick King argue that Government's 'levelling up' agenda and the UK's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is at risk without a faster 5G rollout – to the tune of £41 billion.

The report highlights that if delays continue at their current rate, by 2027, over 11 million households and businesses could be missing out on vital digital connectivity. Improving digital infrastructure supports the Government's 'levelling up' agenda, by helping local areas to retain and attract businesses and talent as well as by reducing regional inequalities.

The report states that 'the UK must have a functioning network to now support the recovery from the pandemic, empowering businesses and communities with wider coverage, and preparing the ground for the services that 5G can provide'.

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Using analysis by the independent consultancy Policy Points, the report estimates that if 5G coverage reaches a quarter more of the population than the Government's current target of 51%, it will produce GDP gains of £41.7 billion by 2027. It highlights that the difference between the UK being a leader and a laggard in 5G adoption could be as much as £173 billion in incremental GDP over the coming decade, as estimated by the Future Communications Challenge Group.

The manufacturing, construction and agricultural sectors have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, and these would benefit significantly from improved connectivity. However, onerous planning rules and loopholes in existing legislation are slowing down the infrastructure upgrades needed to make the most of this mobile revolution in these much-needed industries.

Digital networks and services have underpinned our resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic and they will drive our recovery. By expanding them, we deliver not only immediate benefits but also the essential foundation stone for future prosperity.

The report highlights that while 5G promises to create economic benefits through increased capacity, reliability and speed – vastly improving business productivity and removing barriers imposed by poor digital connectivity – the system is plagued by red tape.

The report acknowledges that the gains are not just at national level. A more extensive digital infrastructure helps local areas to attract and retain businesses and talent, thereby playing a vital role in reducing regional inequalities. Providing a supportive environment for digital infrastructure is one of the few things the Government can do that costs little, boosts growth and helps level up the UK....the key is speed. **The faster a network is built, the bigger the regional gains** (emphasis added). The telecommunications industry faces challenges on this front. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand on networks but delayed the availability of new spectrum to provide additional capacity.

The report notes that the reliability and reach of 4G is more important than ever. It is needed both to quench immediate demand, and also to facilitate future 5G rollout, as the underlying passive infrastructure will initially support both technologies. Every failure to provide better coverage not only presents an immediate opportunity loss for local business and consumers but also has a bigger downstream economic impact. It acknowledges that productivity gains to business, equality gains for regions and economic gains for the country are only as achievable as the networks they can access.

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The report recommended that the Government should reform the strategic planning framework to compel local authorities to ensure that the needs of future mobile connectivity are adequately addressed in Local Plans and that new developments are assessed on how they might impact, or could support, local connectivity.

In April 2021 the DCMS issued a further round of consultation on the 'proposed changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure: technical consultation'. The continuing support for high quality 5G service provision continues to be emphasised:

'Now, more than ever, people need access to dependable and consistent mobile coverage where they live, work and travel. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital connectivity and ensuring that networks have sufficient capacity and resilience to meet demand. Increased connectivity will also be key to our recovery. As the UK seeks to build back better, our changes to the planning system will help to extend and improve mobile coverage, including in rural areas, to benefit communities and businesses.

The government is committed to extending mobile geographical coverage across the UK and providing uninterrupted mobile signal on all major roads, and to be a global leader in 5G... The government is investing £200 million in a programme of 5G testbeds and trials to encourage investment in 5G so that communities and businesses can benefit from this new technology. Our ambition is for the majority of the population to have access to a 5G signal by 2027. The increased connectivity and capacity offered by 5G is opening-up the potential for new, innovative services for individuals and industry...

It is also essential that the planning system can effectively support the delivery of the mobile infrastructure that we need'...

The government response set out that, subject to a technical consultation on the detail of the proposals, including the appropriate environmental protections and other safeguards, we would take forward changes to:

- *Enable the deployment of radio equipment housing on land without the need for prior approval, up to specified limits and excluding sites of special scientific interest, to support 5G deployment;*
- *Strengthen existing masts up to specified limits to enable sites to be upgraded for 5G and for mast sharing without the need for prior approval;*
- *Enable the deployment of building-based masts nearer to highways to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, subject to prior approval and specified limits; and,*

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- *Enable higher new masts to deliver better mobile coverage and mast sharing, subject to prior approval and specified limits”.*

The proposed installation in this location will allow the operator to provide new and improved high quality 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity and new 5G service provision supporting the Government's aim of 'focusing on ensuring that everyone is connected to the information superhighway' and help to meet its target that the majority of the population will have access to a 5G signal by 2027. This fully meets the aspirations of the NPPF.

An installation of a radio base station in this location will ensure that the expansion of the electronic communications network is facilitated and that high quality communications infrastructure is provided to the immediate area. This is in full accordance with the operator's 5G license obligations and the Council's aims and aspirations to expand and improve desirable infrastructure as required and to have the latest high quality 5G infrastructure, promoting and growing the digital sector and increasing digital inclusion.

Summary

It is not possible to upgrade the existing radio base station situated at existing site at Thunderbridge which cannot be upgraded due to its proximity to existing radio base stations. Therefore, a new installation for VM02 is needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies.

The proposed site has been carefully sited which is capable of providing coverage to the target area. In addition the site is located on private land in a break of the residential area. This context will help the lattice tower from appearing prominent in the local environ and as such will not lead to urban sprawl within the Green Belt area.

The proposed height at 20m is essential in order for the antennas to clear the surrounding trees and urban clutter and ensure the antennas are able to reach the target coverage area to maintain and provide new high quality 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G service provision to this part of Kirkburton. This will fully meet the national Governments aim of 'ensuring that everyone is connected to the information superhighway' and the national policies set out in the NPPF. If the height of the lattice tower were to be reduced then the antennas would not be able to operate effectively, leading to a degraded service for the operator's customers especially for the higher frequency technologies including the latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision.

In the first instance, all correspondence should be directed to the agent.

Cornerstone Industry Site Specific Supplementary Information (England) V.5 – 21.03.2022

Registered Address:

Cornerstone Telecommunications, Infrastructure Limited,
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Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
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Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Site selection was progressed in accordance with the applicants licence obligations, advice in the NPPF and the Code of Best Practice and represents the least environmentally intrusive, technically suitable, available option.

The social and economic benefits of providing reliable and high quality mobile broadband connections including 5G support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. This is fully supported by the NPPF, as well as the vision, objectives, policies LP4 and LP24 of the Kirklees Local Plan. These benefits are strong material considerations which outweigh any perceived loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

Name: (Agent)	<u>Jamaal Hafiz</u>	Telephone:	<u>0161 785 4500</u>
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Signed:	<u><i>J. Hafiz</i></u>	Date:	<u>28/04/2023</u>
Position:	<u>Town Planner</u>	(on behalf of Cornerstone)	<u></u>

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