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Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning and Building Control
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG

3-BNY006B

05th March 2026

Dear Planning,

BT Street Hub Project Full Planning and Advertising Application BNY-006B Pavement o/s 48 Cheapside, Barnsley S70 1RU (NGR: E 434626, N 406223)

We write on behalf of our client, BT, relating to various sites across your authority for the installation of BT Street Hubs and the associated removal of BT payphones. BT are moving forward with this particular case and are applying to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for full planning permission and advertisement consent for the installation of 1 no. BT Street Hub and removal of 1 no associated BT payphone kiosk.

InLink Project

The InLink UK service was first launched in 2017 and since then 494 InLink structures were rolled out in 23 cities. These units offer 1Gbps free public Wi-Fi, free UK calls, USB charging, an emergency services button and a range of other digital services for those in the vicinity. HD displays on the sides are used to carry advertising, which helped to fund the units, but the screens can also show local content free of charge. After the suppliers of the InLinks went into administration in 2019 and are no longer able to supply units to BT, this product is no longer available. Since then, BT have been working on a new and improved unit, the BT Street Hub, that they are keen to rollout across Barnsley and all major UK areas.

BT Street Hub Project

BT is continuing to move forward with public connectivity and benefits in which Street Hubs will provide a sleek and modern answer to the demands of a digitally connected society. BT Street Hubs include the ability to house 5G small cells which is very much in line with current UK Government's guidance on communications infrastructure and the National Infrastructure Strategy. This is echoed in the Government's commitment towards telecommunications deployment which has been strengthened since the conception of InLinks and NPPF in particular, confirms that, *"Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being. Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G)."*



Since the rollout of InLinks, there has been increased focus on green initiatives and environmental monitoring. Street Hubs take this into account and can house sensors that count pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle movements as well as monitor air, sound and light. This free information will help the planning system actively manage patterns of growth in support of national air quality objectives and the Government's ten-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. It will be a useful source of real-time data in the delivery of the Council's own green agenda, travel plans and can be used to present a business case for carbon offset credit.

Overall, Street Hubs will help future-proof the high street making them smarter, safer, and more sustainable. Investment in the high street is at an all-time low, but that has not slowed BT down as they look to ramp up their rollout of new Street Hubs across the UK. They are continuing their commitment to invest and improve in the high street, with one Street Hub at a time, and with that, decluttering these environments with the associated removal of existing and redundant BT phone boxes.

This submission is comprised of the following documents:

- Site specific Planning and Design & Access statement;
- IApp forms and certificates generated by the Planning Portal;
- Drawings including location plan map, proposed site plan, existing and proposed elevations;
- BT Street Hub Product Statement giving full details of the proposed structure;
- BT Anti-Social Behaviour Management Plan;
- 'The Institute of Lighting Professional's 'Professional Lighting Guide 05: The Brightness of Illuminated Advertisements' 2023 for your reference;
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) certificate.

The application site and proposal is within adopted highways-controlled land, maintained at public expense. As BT are a statutory undertaker on such land, a developer's notice has been served on the Highways Authority and any others who have been identified from Land Registry records as being an owner of the land.

We trust the application can be registered at your earliest opportunity, in which should you require any further information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to email me.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Lewis Baldwin MRTPI
Senior Acquisition & Planning Surveyor at Mitie

[Redacted contact information]