

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### 1. Site Details

|                  |                               |                             |                                                                                                        |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Name:       | Hoyland Sports Centre         | Site Address:               | Hoyland Sports Centre,<br>West Street (B6097),<br>Hoyland,<br>Barnsley, South<br>Yorkshire,<br>S74 9EH |
| NGR:             | E: 436421, N: 400564          |                             |                                                                                                        |
| Site Ref Number: | CTIL_108570_TEF_71734_VF_3602 | Site Type: <sup>1</sup> Mac | ro                                                                                                     |

### 2. Pre Application Check List

#### Site Selection (for New Sites only)

(would not generally apply to upgrades/alterations to existing sites)

|                                                                                       |    |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Was an LPA mast register used to check for suitable sites by the operator or the LPA? | No |    |
| If no explain why:<br><br>Application is an upgrade to an existing site.              |    |    |
| Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator:            |    | No |
| If no explain why:<br><br>Application is an upgrade to an existing site.              |    |    |

#### Annual Area Wide consultation with local planning authority

|                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date of information submission to local planning authority | 06/10/2014                                                                                                      |
| Name of Contact                                            | Mr Steve Kirkham, Barnsley MBC                                                                                  |
| Summary of any issues raised:                              | No issues raised following submission of rollout plan of the project, benefits and best practice going forward. |

#### Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

|                                                                             |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Date of written offer of pre-application consultation:                      | 20/11/2015             |
| Was there pre-application contact:                                          | YES                    |
| Date of pre-application contact:                                            | N/A                    |
| Name of contact:                                                            | Chief Planning Officer |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:<br><br>No response received to date. |                        |

<sup>1</sup> Macro or Micro

## Ten Commitments Consultation

|                                                                                                             |     |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:                                                                   | Red | Amber | Green |
| Outline Consultation carried out:                                                                           |     |       |       |
| Consultation with Ward Councillors: Emma Dures, James Andrews and Chris Lamb and local MP Michael Dugher MP |     |       |       |
| Pre-application consultation letters were sent to these parties on the 20/11/2015.                          |     |       |       |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:                                                                      |     |       |       |
| No specific comments received to date.                                                                      |     |       |       |

## School/College

|                                                                              |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Location of site in relation to school/college:                              |  |
| West Meadows Primary School<br>West Street<br>Hoyland<br>Barnsley<br>S74 9ET |  |
| Outline of consultation carried out with school/college:                     |  |
| Letters sent to head teacher and chair of governors 20/11/2015               |  |
| Summary of outcome/Main issues raised:                                       |  |
| No specific comments received to date.                                       |  |

## 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:                         | 30/11/2015 |     |

## 3. Proposed Development

|                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The proposed site:                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Vodafone Limited has entered into an agreement with Telefonica UK Limited pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. These |

arrangements will be overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (CTIL) which is a joint venture company owned by Vodafone Limited and Telefonica UK Limited. This agreement allows both organisations to:

- pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks
- maximise opportunities to consolidate the number of base stations
- significantly reduce the environmental impact of network development

This application is submitted for and on behalf of CTIL and Vodafone Limited. As part of Vodafone's continued network improvement programme, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at this location to provide new 2G, 3G and 4G coverage on the part of two operators. The site will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies (including 4G) that have already come on stream and will continue to do so in the future.

### Site

The site is located within the grounds of Hoyland Sports Centre adjacent to the rear of the Leisure Centre Building. The leisure centre is located on West Street in Hoyland within a predominantly residential area. The presence of the existing monopole sets a clear precedent for telecommunications development in this location and indicates that the principle of this proposal is acceptable in terms of siting. The replacement, upgraded monopole will remain the same overall height as the existing structure.

As well as the existing monopole the area consists of a number of other vertical, linear structures including lamp posts, lighting columns both along the highway and for the leisure centre complex, venting apparatus associated with existing buildings and telegraph poles. These will ensure that the replacement monopole will not be seen in isolation and will blend in with the surrounding area and will not have an adverse effect upon amenity.

The replacement, upgraded monopole will be finished in the same colour as the existing structure – galvanised grey ensuring that the proposal will blend in with the surrounding environment and existing street furniture.

### Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells:

This is an upgrade to the existing site to fundamentally enable the operators to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK, to provide new 2G, 3G and 4G coverage on the part of two operators, in accordance with the CTIL joint venture arrangements.

### Type of Structure: 22.7m (overall height) monopole

#### Description

The proposal is for the removal of the existing 20m (overall height 22.7m) monopole supporting 6no. antennas, 1no. 0.3m transmission dish and 2no. equipment cabinets. The installation of a replacement 20m (overall height 22.7m) monopole supporting 6no. antennas, 3 no. Remote Radio Units (RRUs), 2no. replacement equipment cabinets, 1no. additional equipment cabinet and ancillary development required thereto

The current telecommunications site is comprised of a 22.7m (overall height) monopole supporting 6 no. antenna, 1 no. 0.3m transmission dish and 2no equipment cabinets and 1 no. meter cabinet.

The replacement monopole will be of the same overall height as the existing structure and would be finished in galvanized grey which will match the colour of the existing monopole and street furniture.

There will be replacement equipment cabinets and a new equipment cabinet which will be finished in green to match existing.

The headframe, containing the equipment, which will be mounted at the top of the replacement 20m mast will be 1.6m in diameter, which is wider than the existing headframe at 1.0m. The width of the mast will also increase in diameter slightly; the proposed replacement mast does not taper as much at the top as the existing mast. This is necessary in order to support the headframe.

Utilising an existing established telecommunications radio base station site is considered to be more sequentially preferable than the installation of a new ground based installation for the operators elsewhere within the cell area, which would lead to the proliferation of masts. As such, alternative sites have not been considered.

|                                                         |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Overall Height:                                         | 22.7m              |
| Height of existing building : n/a                       |                    |
| Equipment Cabinets: 2 no.                               |                    |
| Width x Depth x Height                                  | 1.3m x 0.7m x 1.5m |
| Equipment Cabinet: 1 no.                                |                    |
| Width x Depth x Height                                  | 0.6m x 0.6m x 1.4m |
| Materials:                                              |                    |
| Tower/mast etc. – type of material and external colour: | Galvanised grey    |
| Equipment housing – external colour:                    | Green              |

#### Reasons for choice of design:

The current installation provides 2G (voice) and 3G (Data) coverage to Vodafone customers in the area.

As part of Vodafone's continued network improvement programme, there is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at this location to provide new 2G (voice), 3G (data) and 4G (high speed data) services, for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall network capacity. The site following the proposed upgrade, will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies including 4G.

The replacement monopole is required due to changed radio coverage dynamics (4G) and structural/technical unsuitability of the older model currently on site. The replacement monopole is of the same overall height as the existing one to minimise any visual impacts and to be as close to the existing monopole as is technically possible.

The antennas on the replacement monopole will be mounted on a new headframe. The width of the mast will be 0.54m in diameter at its widest part (existing 0.54m widest part); the width at the top just below the headframe will be 0.4m (existing 0.2m). The width of the headframe with antennas attached will be 1.65m (existing headframe 0.95m). The requirement for a new headframe is to accommodate the 4G technology for both operators for this area and has been kept to its absolute minimum in width and scale. The headframe is required to support and to provide the required flexibility for the multiple technology antennas for both operators to function adequately in this location which is not possible within the existing structure where the antennas positioning would be fixed. The increase in width of the mast is required for the structural support for the headframe and has been kept to an absolute minimum in width to support the additional equipment for the new technologies.

The proposed upgrade will not result in an increase in height of the overall structure. The wider mast is essential for this location to support the new headframe, which would allow multiple technologies on the same structure and provide coverage and flexibility for the area for two operators. It is the minimalist solution available to provide the required upgrade and the replacement monopole will be of similar materials to those already in situ.

Without the change in design of the structure, multi-technologies for both operators on a single site would not be able to be provided in this area. It is therefore likely that the operators would need to install an additional monopole elsewhere within the cell area to meet their technological requirements. This would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to local and national planning guidance.

Development of this site provides an opportunity to improve the existing local telecommunications network and it demonstrates compliance with national (NPPF) and local planning policies which both encourage the usage of existing structures, sharing of telecommunications facilities and the use of sensitively designed monopoles such as this one. Given that the replacement structure will be at the same overall height as the existing installation already in situ at this location means that the site will be able to absorb the proposal at the site of an existing telecommunications relatively easily.

In light of the operators' efforts to design the best solution for this particular site so as to minimise the impact of the development on the environment, it is considered that the appearance of the replacement monopole would not seriously impact on the visual amenity of the area, nor would it form an obtrusive feature within the built environment.

It is therefore considered that the proposal 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 technical requirements for the site. Taking all matters into account, it is considered that this proposal which is to provide new 2G (voice) and 4G (high speed data) service, plus enhanced and integrated 3G (data) for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK would not be discordant within the surrounding area.

#### 4. Technical Information

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Declaration attached:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes |  |
| 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. |     |  |
| When determining compliance the emissions from all mobile phone network operators on or near the site are taken into account.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |  |

|                                                     |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Frequency: 2G                                       | 900MHz<br>3G 2100Mhz<br>4G 800Mhz                     |
| Modulation characteristics <sup>2</sup>             | 2G (900) – GMSK<br>3G (2100) – QPSK<br>4G (800) - QAM |
| Power output (expressed in EIRP in dBW per carrier) | 800 MHz 31dBW                                         |

<sup>2</sup> The modulation method employed in 2G (GSM) is GMSK (Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying) which is a form of Phase modulation

The modulation method employed in 3G (UMTS) is QPSK (Quad Phase Shift Keying) which is another form of Phase Modulation

The modulation method employed in 4G (LTE) is 64 QAM (Quadrature Amplitude Modulation) which is another form of Phase Modulation

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                   |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2100 MHz 35 dBW<br>900 MHz 32 dBW |
| <p>In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Vodafone Ltd operates its network in such a way that the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision.</p> <p>As part of Vodafone Ltd's 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 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, which is 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> |                                   |

## 5. Technical Justification

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reason(s) why site required e.g. coverage, upgrade, capacity:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>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 county. 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.</p> <p>The distances between transmitter sites will depend on many factors, including the geography of the mobile services. There is a specific requirement for an upgraded radio base station at this location to provide new 2G (voice) and 4G (high speed data) services, plus enhanced and integrated 3G for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall network capacity.</p> <p>This single network grid will automatically increase each operator's footprint by 40%, adding competition and choice for customers in areas that previously only had one operator's coverage available and is a principal reason for the proposed upgrade.</p> <p>Additionally, laying the foundations for a 4G system that provides mobile ultra-broadband internet access, e.g. to laptops with USB wireless modems, to smartphones and to other mobile devices, is desirable. 4G provides superfast mobile broadband and will provide better, faster and more reliable mobile broadband connection according to Ofcom's Chief Executive. Ofcom's Chief Executive also acknowledges that download speeds will initially be at least 5 to 7 times faster than existing 3G networks.</p> <p>The National Planning Policy Framework states at paragraph 46 that local planning authorities should not question the need for the telecommunications system, which the proposed development is to support. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the proposed installation is to provide 2G (voice) and</p> |

4G (high speed data) services, plus enhanced and integrated 3G for both Vodafone and Telefonica to improve overall network capacity

The Government has expressed its commitment to the UK having the best superfast broadband network (i.e. those services with a headline speed of 30Mbit/s or more) by 2015. It also wants superfast broadband networks to be available to 90% of homes and businesses.

The current installation provides 2G only (voice) and 3G (data) coverage to Vodafone and Telefonica UK customers in the area. The replacement monopole is required due to changed radio coverage dynamics (4G) and structural/technical unsuitability of the older model.

The area within which an installation needs to be established to meet the coverage requirement is constrained by the location and extent of the coverage provided by existing installations in the surrounding area. The proposed scheme utilises an existing established radio base station installation which will be upgraded to provide 2G (voice) and 4G (high speed data) services, plus enhanced and integrated 3G for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK and to improve overall network capacity. This will enable the operators to meet their efficiency, capacity and ever increasing technical capability requirements within a single grid network.

Further detail regarding the general operation of the network can be found in the accompanying document entitled 'General Background Information for Telecommunications Development'. This information is provided to assist the LPA in understanding any technical constraints at the location of the proposed development.

6. 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.

The applicant's site selection strategy is to keep the overall environmental impact to a minimum. Utilising existing masts is always progressed where it is technically and legally possible and where it is the local planning authority's preferred environmental solution. New sites are only developed where there are no viable or accessible alternatives or it is the local planning authority's preferred approach. The feasibility of the acquisition, build and maintenance of the site also needs to be taken into account.

In accordance with the above sequential approach, and in line with the principles of pooling the two operators existing network infrastructure to create a single network grid, the proposal is to upgrade the existing base station in this location.

| Site    | Site Name and address | NGR | Reason for not choosing |
|---------|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| N/A N/A |                       | N/A | N/A                     |

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

As referred to above, the applicant has taken a sequential approach and is seeking to redevelop an existing installation to enable a single grid network to provide new 2G (voice) and 4G (high speed data) services, plus enhanced and integrated 3G for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall network capacity to service to the local surrounding area. It is considered that utilising an existing established radio base station installation is preferable to pursuing a second base station within the immediate vicinity, as it would reduce the visual impact therefore preserving the character and amenity of the area. Given the makeup of the area and the siting of existing telecoms infrastructure on the site, it was established that the upgrading of facilities through the use of existing infrastructure would be the most viable solution. Based on this sequential approach no other sites have been considered.

Additional relevant information:

## **Siting**

There is a specific requirement for a radio base station upgrade at this location to provide new 2G (voice) and 4G (high speed data) services, plus enhanced and integrated 3G (data) for both Vodafone and Telefonica UK to improve overall capacity. The site following the proposed upgrade, will be capable of accommodating new, more advanced technologies for this cell area so that customers will be able to continue to use their smartphones and tablet computers whenever and wherever they are to access services such as instant messaging, emailing, video calls, downstream data to name just a few of the benefits of the latest technologies that 4G provides.

Utilising an existing established radio base station and installing a replacement structure at the same overall height will reduce the cumulative number of base stations in this area that are required and meets with the requirements for minimising the number of radio base stations as set out in NPPF.

It is likely that once built, the site will be visited infrequently for maintenance purposes only, as is currently the case. Access to the site will be by foot in which the applicant would gain access to the equipment housed within the cabinets. In the event of the antennas within the mast needing to be maintained this will be achieved by siting a cherry picker with a hydraulic platform alongside the base station.

## **Visual Appearance**

The need for additional structures will be kept to a minimum through the removal and replacement of the existing structure on this site. However, the operator recognises the need to minimise the visual impact of any new structure on the site. The replacement monopole is the thinnest possible in order to house the 2G, 3G and 4G technologies on the same structure, thus allowing both operators to utilise the same apparatus having the same overall height of structure it replaces albeit at a slightly wider mast and headframe.

The replacement monopole is required due to changed radio coverage dynamics (4G) and structural/technical unsuitability of the older model currently on site. It is acknowledged that the replacement mast would appear slightly wider in diameter compared to the existing one. However, if the mast or headframe were any slimmer in diameter, then the technologies would not be able to be accommodated within the same structure and an additional telecommunications base station would be required, which would lead to the proliferation of masts, contrary to national and local planning policy.

The requirement for a replacement monopole is to accommodate the 4G technology for both operators in addition to 2G and 3G technologies for this area and has been kept to its absolute minimum in width and scale. The headframe is required to support and to provide the required flexibility for the multiple technology antennas for both operators to function adequately in this location, which is not possible within the existing monopole. The slight increase in the width of the

mast is required for the structural support for the headframe and has been kept to an absolute minimum in width to support the additional equipment for the new technologies.

It is considered that due to the location of the telecommunication base station and the existing vertical features in the surrounding area, such as lamp posts, telegraph pole lines and chimneys in addition to the built environment means that the impact on visual amenity will not be detrimental and that the benefits would significantly outweigh the costs.

In light of the operator's efforts to design the best solution for this particular site so as to minimise the impact of development on the local environment, it is considered that the appearance of the replacement monopole would not seriously impact upon the visual amenity of the area, nor would it form an obtrusive feature within the built environment.

### **Possible Electrical Interference**

We can advise on behalf of the client that the proposed installation should not cause any undue electrical interference for nearby residents. Vodafone Limited operates within radio bands which are licensed and specific to them and this is regulated in the UK by the Office of Communications (Ofcom).

### **Noise**

There will be no noise issues related to this site.

### **Planning Policy Framework**

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

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) supports high quality communications infrastructure and recognises it as a strategic priority.

Paragraph 43 states that '*Local Planning Authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband*'. It goes on to acknowledge that the numbers of radio and telecommunications masts and the sites for such installations should be kept to the minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. The NPPF supports the use of existing masts, buildings and other structures, unless the need for a new site has been justified. It goes on to state that where new sites are required, the equipment should be sympathetically designed.

NPPF paragraph 46 sets out a clear message to local planning authorities on health issues and the need for telecommunications systems. It states that '*local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for the telecommunications system, or determine health safeguards if the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure*'.

Throughout the NPPF there is strong support for sustainable development which is summed up in paragraph 14 which states 'At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan making and decision taking. For decision-taking this means:

- Approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and
- Where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of-date, granting planning permission unless:

- Any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or
- Specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

Section 7 of the NPPF sets out the requirement for good design and states at paragraph 56 that ‘*the Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people*’. Paragraph 65 goes on to state that ‘*local planning authorities should not refuse planning permission for build ings or infra structure which promote high le vels of sustainability because of concer ns about i ncompatibility with an existing t ownscape, if those concerns have been mitigated by good design*’.

The NPPF sets out 12 core principles which should underpin plan-making and decision-making these principles include that every effort should be made objectively to identify and meet development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth (para 17).

### **Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development in England (July 2013)**

The Code of Best Practice provides guidance primarily to mobile network operators, their agents and contractors and to local planning authorities in England. It supersedes the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2002).

The principal aim of this Code is to ensure that the Government’s objective of supporting high quality communications infrastructure is achieved in a timely mann er, but in a way that also minimises the potential impact that ca n be associated with such development. It provides cle ar and practica l advice to ensure the delivery of signif icantly better a nd more effective co mmunication and consultation between operators, local authorities and local residents.

The Code highlights t hat the mobile tele communications network is a cru cial piece of national infrastructure in both economic and social terms. It acknowledges that the pressure on networks to upgrade and improve networks thro ugh changes to existing sites and t he development of new sites is constant. With the increasing consumer demand and the Government’s ambitious aspirations it is becoming more important to impr ove connectivity and capa city. This is due to the ever increasing demand for data hungry applications. Howe ver, The Co de notes that upgrading and improving mobile networks will not be possible without the necessary infrastructure on which they rely.

The Code acknowledges that the operators anticipate largely using existing network infrastructure for the provision of 4G ser vices and a re similarly upgrading t heir 2G and 3G network infrastru cture to improve capacity and co verage. However, the Code goes on to state t hat this doe s not mean that there will no t be a need for new base station s. More base stations wil l be needed in areas where there has previously been only limited or no coverage, and where coverage and capacity needs to be enhanced in line with G overnment Policy and customer demand or where sites h ave been lost for example due to redevelopment.

Mast and site sharing continues to be supported within both Government policy and the Code of Best Practice. The Code acknowledges that shared sites will tend to be slightly bigger, but fewer sites will be needed overall to improve coverage and capacity. The Code acknowledges that sharing o f sites is now the norm, and network operators now share muc h of their network infrastructure via joint venture commercial arrangements.

It is therefore considered that the use of a 20m high, monopole (overall height 22.7m) which provides the space and technical flexibility for the 2G, 3 G and 4 G technologies to function adequately at this location as it was not possible on the existing structure will not impact significantly on the amenity of the area.

Concerning the erection of new ground based masts; The Code provides examples of where the environmental and visual impact of the mast can be greatly reduced.

- *Placing the mast near similar structures. For example, industrial and commercial premises, road signs and lamp posts;*
- *Using simple and unfussy designs. Masts which have complex designs are more likely to dominate and be in discord with the landscape and have adverse visual impacts; and*
- *Appropriate colouring.*

## **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 development plan as defined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council comprises the Core Strategy, the Barnsley Education Sites Development Plan Document (DPD) (both of which form part of the Local Development Framework), the remaining saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan, and the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Barnsley MBC is currently producing a Local Plan. Its status is that it is currently at public consultation stage which ended on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015. This new local plan (once adopted) will replace the Core Strategy and Unitary Development Plan.

There is no current statutory policy pertaining specifically to telecommunications as ‘Policy U TL5 Telecommunications’ of the UDP is not a ‘saved’ policy.

## **Barnsley Core Strategy (2011)**

CSP 29 Design Principles:

High quality development will be expected, that respects, takes advantage of and enhances the distinctive features of Barnsley, including:

- topography, Green Infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features
- views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways
- heritage, townscape and landscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form particularly in and around: Barnsley Town Centre  
Penistone and the rural villages in the west of the borough within and adjacent to Conservation Areas

Development should:

- contribute to place making and be of a high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment
- help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness
- enable all people to gain access safely and conveniently, providing, in particular, for the needs of families and children, and of disabled people and older people
- contribute towards creating attractive, sustainable and successful neighbourhoods
- achieve a Building For Life assessment rating of 'good' or equivalent as a minimum, in developments of 10 or more dwellings

## **Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014**

### **Utilities**

The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to work with other authorities and providers to assess the quality and capacity of all types of infrastructure including utilities, and its ability to meet the forecast demands. The responsibility and resources to provide services rests with the utilities companies, however, we must make sure that we co-ordinate the development of an effective network of services with existing and proposed development. We will support new services development, and will work with operators to make sure that any proposed development is well positioned and designed.

### **Evaluation in Light of National and Local Policy**

The NPPF clearly highlights the government's positive stance regarding telecommunications and broadband development and the support whilst noting the environmental and social benefits telecommunications can provide.

The replacement telecommunications installation at Hoyle and Leisure Centre fully complies with the objectives of the NPPF, as it states [para 43] that the number of radio and telecommunication masts should be kept to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. Existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used unless the need of a new site has been justified [NPPF para 43].

The application site is an established telecommunications site whereby the replacement monopole is being proposed for 2 no. operators to utilise one single network grid point in accordance with the NPPF and Code of Best Practice as it offers the best environmental solution by limiting the visual intrusion in the area.

The principle of a telecommunications base station installation at this location has already been accepted by the Council and has become part of the established built environment. The proposed upgrade to the existing site is sequentially the most preferable option as it makes use of an existing site. The proposed design is intentionally as similar as to the existing structure in terms of colouring, height and width as is technically possible to minimise any impacts upon residential or visual amenity in the surrounding area.

In accordance with the NPPF, Barnsley Core Strategy CSP 29 and Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft 2014, great care was taken with regards to the design of the proposed structure which is one of the most sensitive designs available.

The wider headframe is essential in order to fit all the technologies within the same structure for this area. It is the minimalist solution available to provide the required upgrade and the replacement monopole will have no impact upon the overall height. Without the amendments to the existing telecommunications installation, multi technologies for both operators on a single site would not be possible. It is therefore likely that the operators would need to install an additional radio base station elsewhere within the cell area to meet their technological requirements. This would lead to the proliferation of masts contrary to local and national planning guidance. Given that the replacement monopole will appear as similar as possible to the existing structure already in situ.

The Code of Best Practice acknowledges that shared structures tend to be larger. The proposed headframe is wider in order to accommodate the additional technologies for both operators, within a single structure and for the technologies to function adequately with future flexibility for further technology changes. However, it has been maintained at the same height to minimise any visual impact upon residential and visual amenity in the surrounding area.

Given that the proposal is a replacement to an existing monopole installation already in situ and not a new structure, together with the orientation and existing nearby built environment means that the

proposed upgrade to the existing radio base station will not cause a significant loss of local amenity in accordance with the NPPF and Code of Best Practice.

The NPPF states at paragraph 43 that local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. It acknowledges that high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The NPPF also highlights that the development of high speed broadband technology also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

Taking all these factors into consideration, it is our opinion that the proposal meets all local policy requirements of Barnsley MBC and national policy as set out in the NPPF.

## Conclusion

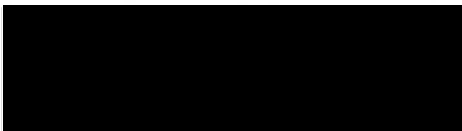
To summarise the case in favour of the proposals the following points are of relevance:

- With specific regard to telecommunications development, the proposal accords fully with Local Policies, the NPPF and the Code of Best Practice;
- Site selection was progressed in accordance with the applicant's licence obligations, advice in NPPF and the Code of Best Practice and represents the least environmentally intrusive, technically suitable, available option;
- The significance of the proposal in the development of two competing companies to operate and manage a single network grid using modern MORAN technologies across the UK is a material consideration. By pooling the operators' basic network infrastructure, this will:
  - Automatically increase each operator's footprint by 40%, adding competition and choice for customers in areas that previously only had one operator's coverage available.
  - Close the digital divide between rural and urban areas targeting 98% indoor population coverage across 2G and 3G by 2015.
  - Lay the foundations for two competing 4G networks to deliver the capability for a nationwide 4G service faster than could be achieved independently.
- With the advent of smartphones and tablet computers the demand for indoor 3G coverage and high speed data capture is increasing rapidly and the operators are obliged to meet this demand and provide a high quality service in line with the NPPF guidance.
- An existing structure is being upgraded by the applicant with minimal alterations in order to allow the operators to manage a single network grid and which fully accords with NPPF guidelines;
- The operator's site selection strategy is to keep the overall environmental impact to a minimum through utilising the same sites wherever possible. The operators are utilising the same site where it is technically and legally possible and is the sequentially preferable environmental solution.

Taking into consideration all the relevant factors set out herein this document, it is considered that this proposed replaced extended monopoly of the existing monopoly at Hoyland Sports Centre is the optimum solution in terms of providing the required technology coverage, minimising any adverse impacts on local amenity and the surrounding landscape.

The proposal is fully compliant with the NPPF [par 14, 17, 43, 46, 56, 65], Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Development, and Barnsley Core Strategy [CSP29] and Barnsley Local Plan Consultation Draft [25].

## Contact Details

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