SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	Barnsley Town Centre	Site Address:	Barnsley Interchange, Eldon Street North, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S71 1BP
National Grid Reference:	E: 434705 N: 406670		
Site Ref Number:	CTIL_117621_TF_71712	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?		No
If no explain why: This is an existing site.		
Were industry site databases checked for suitable sites by the operator:		No
If no explain why: This is an existing site.		

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	20.03.19
Name of contact:	Richard Gilbert
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: A pre-consultation letter along with plans were sent to the LPA on 07/03 with a response being received by the LPA officer on 20.03.19 stating stating the proposed would be a 1/3 wider therefore full planning being required. Clarke responded to the LPA officer stating we were aware of the 1/3 wider and would be submitting a full application. The LPA officer then responded with no objections stating the proposed would be fairly modest.	

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	~~Red~~	Amber	~~Green~~

[1] Macro

Outline of consultation carried out: Pre-application consultation was carried out with the local ward councillor's for Central Ward: Cllr's D Birkinshaw, M Bruff, M Dyson and the local MP Dan Jarvis. A copy of the proposed plans together with a covering letter were sent to these parties on 07/03/19.
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: No specific comments have been received to date.

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college: Queens Road Academy, Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1AR
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college: A pre-consultation letter and plans were sent to the head teacher and chair of governors on 07.03.19
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: 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?		N/A
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:	22nd March 2019		

3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

Background

As part of Telefónica's network improvement programme, Telefónica is in the process of progressing a number of suitable sites for radio base stations, which will provide and improve 2G, 3G and 4G coverage to the local area. This is fully in line with the Government's aim to ensure that everyone is connected to the superhighway, and the operators 4G legal license requirement to provide 98% coverage.

In addition, Telefónica UK Ltd has entered into an agreement with Telefonica UK Ltd pursuant to which the two companies plan to jointly operate and manage a single network grid across the UK. These arrangements are overseen by Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (CTIL) which is a joint venture company owned by Telefónica UK Ltd and Vodafone Ltd ("the operators").

The agreement allows both organisations to pool their basic network infrastructure, while running two, independent, nationwide networks allowing consumer choice. An upgraded site in this location will also assist Telefonica UK to improve its 2G, 3G and 4G coverage in line with its legal license obligations to provide 98% coverage.

Proposed Development

As part of Telefónica's continued network improvement program, there is a specific requirement for an upgrade to the existing radio base station on land at Barnsley Interchange to ensure the latest technology continues to be provided for its customers in this cell area including 2G, 3G and 4G service provision. The upgraded site will also ensure that Vodafone will also be able to continue to utilize the same site and maintain their coverage in the area as well.

The immediate site location is away from the residential nature of Barnsley. The proposed development relates to the removal of the existing antenna head frame supporting 6 no. antennas and the installation of a replacement antenna headframe supporting 6 no. new antennas and ancillary development thereto including the relocation of the existing 3 no. Remote Radio units (RRUs), 9 no. additional RRUs, 1 no. GPS module and the removal of 1 no. transmission dish.

The upgraded site will continue to enable a single network grid supporting modern multi technology for Telefónica. The site will continue to be operated by CTIL and Telefónica UK Ltd but will enable both operators Telefónica and Vodafone to continue to provide the latest multiple technology and services to the surrounding area.

Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells if appropriate:

The replacement antennas on replacement headframe as well as the equipment will enable enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to the surrounding area for Telefonica to ensure high quality customer experience is obtained as demands on the network increase and

technologies change.

Type of Structure: Monopole	
Description: *The removal of the existing antenna head frame supporting 6 no. antennas and the installation of a replacement antenna headframe supporting 6 no. new antennas and ancillary development thereto including the relocation of the existing 3 no. Remote Radio units (RRUs), 9 no. additional RRUs, 1 no. GPS module and the removal of 1 no. transmission dish*	
Overall Height: 23.47m (top height of antennas)	
Height of existing building:	N/A
Equipment Housing: N/A	
Length:	N/A
Width:	N/A
Height:	N/A
Materials *(as applicable):*	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	As existing
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	As existing

Reasons for choice of design, making reference to pre-application responses:
The existing radio base station has become an established part of the immediate area which currently in situ, comprises a 20m monopole that supports 6no antennas on a headframe at an antenna height of 22.7m, 3no. RRU's, 2no. Transmission Dishes, 2no.equipment cabinets and 1.8m high palisade fencing. Since this time, technology advances and additional demands on the operator's mobile network system in the area have meant that the antennas need to be slightly larger as well as on a replacement headframe given the existing headframe would not be able to support the new antennas and the additional apparatus that is required. To minimize the impact on the surrounding area, the proposed upgrade to the existing radio base station will resemble as closely as possible the existing apparatus already in-situ. To this end, the existing monopole will be retained however a replacement headframe is required to support the replacement antennas. The replacement 6no. antennas will be located at the top of the headframe as well as the 9no. RRU's and the 1no. GPS Module being located at the top of the headframe. This ensures that the amended design will not appear overly dominant in its established location. The top antenna height is required to be slightly higher at 23.47m. This continues to ensure that the antennas continue to clear any urban or natural clutter along with providing the latest technologies. The proposed additional 9no. RRU's and 1no. GPS module are required as they ensure that

the antennas operate as efficiently as possible, maximising signal penetration and minimising the requirement for additional equipment cabinets at ground level. The RRU's are small and will be positioned behind the antennas. The GPS module is very small and will hardly be noticeable in its position. This equipment on the monopoles headframe will be barely be noticeable due to its discreet siting and height above ground level. Thus, impact towards to the immediate and surrounding area has been minimised.

This is the most suitable, available option given it is the upgrading of an existing site. 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 multi technical requirements for the site. Taking all matters into account, it is considered that this upgraded installation, on an established radio base station site, to enable the enhancement of 2G, 3G and 4G service provision to the surrounding area, would not appear out of place and would continue to provide high quality coverage and capacity, delivering the capability for a multi-service from a single network installation.

Technical Information

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Declaration attached (see below) 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 to the site are taken into account. In order to minimize interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Telefonica UK Limited operates its network in such a way the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision As part of Telefonica's network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way. 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, 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. 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.	Yes	

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 to upgrade the existing radio base station which is located in Barnsley to enable Telefonica to enhance its 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to this part of Barnsley and its environ. Furthermore, due to the joint agreement with the two operators: Telefonica UK Ltd and Vodafone Ltd the installation will be designed so that Vodafone can utilize this site in the future if required. This negates the need for further radio base stations in the vicinity for either of these two operators.

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.

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 Type	Site name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing site
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 retain the existing radio base station, by the replacement of 6no. antennas, installation of 9no. RRUs and 1no. GPS Module on a replacement headframe to enable the operator to continue to provide high quality multi-technologies to the local surrounding area. The minor amendments to the existing radio base station will enable a single grid network using multiple technologies to service to the immediate 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 existing 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.

Land use planning designations:

Please see below.

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.

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

National Planning Policy Framework (Revised February 2019)

In February 2019 a revised version of the NPPF was published and sets out the governments planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. This revised framework replaces the previous NPPF that was published in March 2012.

The Government's latest thinking strongly supports communications infrastructure. Paragraph 112 of the framework document sets out the objectives of the Communications Infrastructure. It states 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) and full fibre broadband connections*'

It goes on to acknowledge in Para 113 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 and camouflaged where appropriate.

NPPF paragraph 116 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 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.*'

Throughout the NPPF there is strong support for sustainable development which is summed up in paragraph 11 which states '*So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development*'

The NPPF provides guidance for decision-taking and states at paragraph 38 that '*local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area*

In determining applications the NPPF provides guidance for determining applications. At

paragraph 38 it notes that '*decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.*

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Network Development in England (24 November 2016)

The Code of Best Practice has been fully revised in November 2016 and is now even more supportive of mobile network provision in line with Government aspirations that everyone should have access to the information super highway no matter where they are located whether that be in rural or urban areas. This Code provides guidance to mobile network operators, their agents and contractors and equally to all local planning authorities in England. It supersedes the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2013).

The principal aim of this Code is to ensure that the Government's objective of supporting high quality communications infrastructure, which is vital to continued economic prosperity and social inclusion for all, is met. The development of such 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.

Section 2 of the Code highlights the Government's Communications Policy and Planning Policy. It acknowledges that the continued expansion and development of mobile networks is a key element of the National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016 – 2021. This recognises that digital communications are now a crucial component of everyday life, with improvements in connectivity being key to a vibrant economy (para 2.1).

Paragraph 2.2 goes on to state that consumers, businesses and public bodies increasingly rely on mobile communications and expect to receive a signal wherever they are. The Code indicates that recent changes in planning policy [and regulation] are intended to align with Government communications policy, where the ultimate goal is to achieve mobile coverage wherever it is needed. Section 2 of this Code also reiterates NPPF guidance in strongly supporting high quality communications infrastructure, which is seen as essential for sustainable economic growth.

Section 3 of this Code acknowledges that there are special operational and technical considerations associated with mobile network development, which have changed over time due to changes in technology and associated changes in demand. The Code acknowledges that there remains a reliance on radio masts to provide the main umbrella of coverage. Paragraph 3.1 explains that radio signals operate like light and must "see" over the target coverage area, they cannot be hidden and so there will always be a degree of visual impact.

Paragraph 3.2 clearly indicates that in assessing the visual impact, greater emphasis than previously should now be placed on the radio planning requirements to achieve mobile coverage (as shown in the recent changes to permitted development rights, at the end of November 2016, and the reduced test in the most recent NPPF.

Paragraph 3.3 goes on to highlight that the [operator systems tend to be demand-led or to fulfil coverage obligations. With the ever increasing demand for data hungry applications available to a range of connected devices, such as smart phones and tablets, the requirement to upgrade and improve networks through changes to existing sites and the development of new sites is constant. As most parts of the country move on to a superfast highway, so the

need to bring coverage to 'not spots' and improve coverage in 'partial not spots' intensifies.

Paragraph 3.4 of The Code provides advice to local Planning authorities who are concerned about proposals, stating that they should not 'look for problems' but should work proactively with the Mobile Network Operators to find solutions, in line with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Paragraph 4.1 of the Code acknowledges that customer expectations have evolved with technology. The expectation is that they will always be connected and able to access services in exactly the same way as fixed broadband for personal, educational and business purposes.

Paragraph 4.2 acknowledges that data, i.e. using the internet, puts increased demand on capacity and therefore the need for additional base stations to keep abreast of customer demand. However, changes in working practices for the operators, in line with national guidance, streamlining networks, sharing base stations has reduced the overall amount of infrastructure required.

The Code goes on to acknowledge that operators maximise the use of their existing network infrastructure for the provision of 4G services and are similarly upgrading their 3G network infrastructure to improve capacity and coverage. However, the revised Code continues to advise that this does not mean that there will not be a need for any new base stations. Indeed, for example, more base stations will 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 Government commitments and customer demand.

Similarly, some new sites will be required to replace existing sites that are lost, for example, through redevelopment of an existing building. Some masts may need to be redeveloped or replaced to enable an upgrade in services to take place.

Section 5 relates to mobile connectivity in the 21st Century, explaining that mobile phones and other devices are now everywhere. Mobile connectivity is not just making calls and texts but also mobile broadband. The majority of mobile phones in the UK are Internet-enabled smartphones and large numbers of people also now own tablet devices. People are increasingly choosing to access the internet using a mobile device even when they have fixed broadband connection available.

The Code acknowledges that by the second decade of the 21st Century, the greatest increase in traffic across mobile networks was in data i.e. internet use (para 5.3). Paragraph 5.4 states that in terms of the wider economic impact of mobile connectivity, research by Deloitte on the economic impact of mobile broadband across a range of countries, showed that a doubling of mobile data use leads to an increase of 0.5% in the Gross Domestic Product per capita, while another study put the benefit of 4G mobile broadband to the UK economy at £75 billion over a decade.

Section 5 of the Code goes on to highlight that connectivity promotes social inclusion. In recent years, more people rely on a mobile phone than they rely on a landline. Furthermore, people on lower incomes are even more likely to live in a mobile only household, or to access the Internet using a mobile connection (para 5.5).

The 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 (para 5.7). 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 (para 5.8).

Paragraph 5.9 states that there is a need to continually upgrade and improve mobile networks, which will not function without the necessary infrastructure on which they rely. This is driven by increasing consumer demand for data, improved connectivity and more capacity, together with Government aspirations for improving connectivity and coverage.

The Code provides guidance on siting and appearance principles at Appendix A. It sets out a number of design principles in respect of telecommunications development. However, the code acknowledges that the options for design used by an operator will be affected by site conditions including requirement to link the site to the network, landscape features and coverage and capacity requirements. The main options for the operator include:

Mast and/or site sharing (including redevelopment of a site to enable upgrade or sharing with another operator);

- 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).

The Code in Appendix A acknowledges that it has been a long standing Government policy objective to support the sharing of masts and sites. Operators also aim to site share wherever viable.

Concerning the erection of new ground based masts; The Code at Appendix A page 27 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;
- Placing a mast within or adjacent to an existing group of trees. This option is more successfully implemented in or near wooded areas. It should also be noted that the top of the mast placed in trees will need to be above the tree-line in order for the equipment to work for the allowance of future tree growth;
- 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. Masts seen against the sky are best left in their galvanised state or painted pale grey. Against a wooded backdrop, a matt green or brown colour scheme would be more applicable.

The Code continues to support sympathetic design and camouflaging including concealing antennas in familiar features such as flagpoles, street lamp posts, telegraph pole style designs and signs.

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 Borough Council comprises of the Core Strategy (2011)

Barnsley Core Strategy (2011)

The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Barnsley, and the approach to its long term physical development to achieve the Council's vision of what sort of place Barnsley wants to become. The Core Strategy was adopted on in September 2011.

There are no specific telecommunications policies however under the Digital Region section in para 3.44 it is acknowledged the Digital Region Project is a public sector led open access broadband project. It is the first major regional deployment of "Superfast Broadband" in the UK, which will not only improve access to a range of entertainment, business and public sector services, but will attract new investment and jobs. The Digital Region will create an environment where access to next generation broadband services is cost effective and accessible to all residents and businesses in South Yorkshire. The aim is for this to stimulate economic and social prosperity and to help bridge the digital divide. It is envisaged that South Yorkshire will be the first place in the UK where next generation broadband is so accessible that it will be considered the fourth utility.

Planning Assessment

The following paragraphs set out how the proposed upgrade to the existing radio base station fully complies with para 3.44 of the Core Strategy, National Guidance contained within the NPPF and the Code of Best Practice.

The installation of replacement 6no. antennas on a replacement headframe, additional 9no. Remote Radio Units (RRU's), 1no. GPS Module and ancillary development thereto is in line with the NPPF. Government guidance states that in order to limit visual intrusion, the number of radio and telecommunication masts and the sites 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 for a new site has been justified [NPPF para 113].

The existing monopole that includes 6no. antennas on a headframe has become an established part of this area. The proposed upgrade to the existing radio base station will enhance Telefonica's customer experience by providing improved 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to this part of Barnsley. It will enable their customers to continue to utilise their handheld devices for the purposes in which they have become accustomed, as well as being able to access the latest technology wherever they are whether that be indoors or outside. The upgrade will also enable Vodafone to continue to utilise the site and provide enhanced coverage and capacity for their customers too, negating the need for an additional installation

in this cell area for either operator. This is in full accordance with NPPF and The Code of Best Practice. It offers the best environmental solution, limiting the amount of new sites required whilst allowing the two operators to continue to utilise the same existing site, limiting the visual intrusion in the area and impact towards the area. This is in full accordance with NPPF and the Code of Best Practice.

For the avoidance of doubt, the replacement 6no. antennas, 9no. RRU's and 1no. GPS Module and the replacement headframe are required in order to provide the latest technologies. The current antennas cannot support the latest technologies due to the amount of data (and superfast data) that the antennas have to carry.

By enhancing the 2G, 3G and 4G service provision to this area this would para 3.44 of the Core Strategy and the NPPF. It is widely acknowledged (see NPPF above) that high quality communications is vital for sustainable economic growth and that it plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.

The upgrade to the existing radio base station would support the upgrade of the area by maintaining a safe community, Improving our local environment, Meeting local transport needs, Providing the best opportunities for learning and personal development, Providing stable employment and improved prosperity.

Without these minor amendments to the existing radio base station the operator's customers would experience increasing numbers of dropped calls and buffering unable to access the internet on their handheld devices.

The Government fully supports high quality communications infrastructure. NPPF states at paragraph 112 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 strongly supports sustainable development as does the councils Core Strategy, 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, 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. This reduces travel time, carbon emissions and increases the speed in which information is processed/shared. The proposals therefore fully comply with NPPF to minimize the effects of climate change reducing the need to travel and therefore the carbon footprint.

In this instance the upgrade to the existing radio base station would enhance the 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity in this area will fully meet para 3.44 of the Core Strategy and the NPPF.

In accordance with NPPF, replacement 6no. antennas additional 9no. RRU's on a replacement headframe and 1no. GPS Module will not cause detrimental harm to the area and the monopole will still be seen as an established part of the area. The headframe width at the top of the monopole is required to be wider due to the antennas to enable support to provide the latest technologies. The replacement 6no. antennas will have a similar

appearance to the existing antennas which they replace. Furthermore, given the height, some 20m above ground level, this will ensure that the replacement antennas and equipment to the existing monopole will not appear prominent in the area.

The proposed upgrade to the existing radio base station is in full conformity with the NPPF. The proposals will ensure the retention and improvement of high quality communications infrastructure for the community, investing in improved community facilities which meet essential everyday needs, as important as gas and electricity. Indeed, high quality telecommunications is often seen as the fourth utility service.

The social and economic benefits are a significant material consideration which should be weighed against the minimal visual impact associated with the amendments to the existing installation. 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.

'*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 UKs Superfast Broadband connectivity was 'relatively poor' and businesses in rural areas, in particular, were losing out from patchy coverage.

As such, there is continuing and growing strong national support for high quality communications infrastructure. This is demonstrated in a commitment to review permitted development rights and as discussed in March 2016, stating:

'*Our constituents now want coverage for the internet, they want coverage for mobile phones...we need to make sure we change the law in all the ways necessary to make sure...the masts are built, we increase coverage and we ensure everyone is connected to the information superhighway*'.

Further to the Government's commitment to improve connectivity, on 24th November 2016 the new permitted development rights for telecommunication operators came in to 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. This has come about since the House of Commons Statement post 2015 Budget Productivity Plan '*Fixing the Foundations: Creating a More Prosperous Nation*' where the economic benefits were outlined in paragraph 7.1, (as set out above).

In October 2016, there was also the BIG Infrastructure Group Report release calling on operators to improve their network. This is signed and has comments from numerous MP's nationally.

Therefore the Government fully supports high quality communications infrastructure. NPPF states at paragraph 113 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 replacement 6no. antennas and equipment will continue to allow two operators to utilise the same installation and provide enhanced high quality 2G/3G and 4G mobile communications supporting the Government's aim of *'focusing on ensuring that everyone is connected to the information superhighway'*. This fully meets the aspirations of NPPF. The upgrade of this existing site 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 4G license obligations, the Council's aims and aspirations and the Code of Best Practice.

All Telefonica UK installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). A certificate of ICNIRP compliance is enclosed with this application. Therefore, in full accordance with the NPPF paragraph 116 the Council has no need to determine health safeguards as the proposal meets International Commission guidelines for public exposure.

Summary

The 6no. replacement antennas, additional 9no. RRU's on a new replacement headframe and 1no. GPS Module will continue to be in keeping with the area. The proposed amendments to the existing scheme are minor in nature, but will enhance the customer experience for Telefonica to ensure its operators' customers are able to continue to utilize their handheld devices for the purposes in which they were purchased.

On balance, the minor amendments will have no detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the immediate and surrounding area than the established radio base station currently in situ. However, the amendments will provide enhanced 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity to the surrounding area. Thus providing a high quality service to its customers and access to the latest technologies whenever and wherever they are.

Site selection was progressed in accordance with the applicants licence obligations, advice in 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 fixed and mobile broadband connections support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. This is fully supported by the NPPF and in line with para 3.44 of the Core Strategy. These benefits are strong material considerations which outweigh any minor loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

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Position:	Town Planner	Company: (on behalf of CTIL and above operator)	Clarke Telecom Limited