

Application Reference Number:	2026/0194
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Application Type:	Advertisement Consent.
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Proposal Description:	Removal of associated BT payphones and the installation of 1no. BT Street Hub with 2no. digital LCD display screens, one on each side of the unit. (Advertisement Consent).
Location:	Pavement o/s 48 Cheapside, Barnsley, S70 1RU.

Applicant:	BT Telecommunications PLC.
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Third-party representations:	None.	Parish:	
		Ward:	Central.

Summary:
<p>The applicant is seeking planning permission and advertisement consent for the installation of 1no. BT Street Hub and removal of associated BT payphones.</p> <p>The proposed development would have no adverse impact on visual amenity, residential amenity, and highway safety, and is considered acceptable in policy terms. The proposal is therefore considered to be an acceptable and sustainable form of development in accordance with Section 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024).</p> <p>Recommendation: APPROVE subject to conditions.</p>

Site Description

This application relates an existing BT payphone with associated advertising displays located to the south-western end of Cheapside near to the entrance of the Alhambra Shopping Centre and within an area of Barnsley Town Centre that is principally commercial in nature characterised by illuminated and non-illuminated signage to shopfronts, minimal street furniture and pedestrianised street through refurbishment works. There are numerous existing payphones and advertising displays throughout the town centre. The existing BT payphone is cuboid shaped, constructed of metal and enclosed on three sides with glazing to its north side and an advertisement on its east side.



Planning History

The most recent and relevant applications associated with the development site are:

2025/0860	Removal of associated BT payphones and the installation of 1no. BT Street Hub with 2no. digital 75" LCD display screens, one on each side of the unit. (Planning Consent).	Refused.
2025/0876	Removal of associated BT payphones and the installation of 1no. BT Street Hub with 2no. digital 75" LCD display screens, one on each side of the unit. (Advertisement Consent).	Refused.
2026/0193	Installation of 1no. BT Street Hub and removal of associated BT payphones (Full Planning Consent).	Under consideration.

The reason(s) for refusal under planning application 2025/0860 and advertisement consent application 2025/0876 were:

1. *The proposed BT Street Hub would be located on a pedestrianised area directly in front of a bench in manner that would appear awkward and would make the seating area less attractive to use. This is contrary to Local Plan Policy BTC3 which indicates that new development in public spaces must make a positive contribution through its design, siting and use of materials, and contrary to paragraph 135 of the National Planning Policy Framework which indicates that development should function well and add to the overall quality of the area.*

Proposed Development

The applicant is seeking planning permission and advertisement consent to remove one existing BT payphone and install one replacement BT Street Hub with two 75" LCD digital displays, one on each side of the unit.

The proposed BT Street Hub would measure approximately 2.98 metres (H) x 1.24 metres (W) x 0.4 metres (D). The BT Street Hub would be constructed of a galvanised mild steel frame with a black powder coated external grade aluminium exterior. The digital displays would be made of tempered and toughened laminated glass.

The digital display panels would be internally illuminated with a proposed maximum illuminance level of 5000cd/m² but would automatically dim to 600cd/m² at night.

This application should be read in conjunction with application 2026/0193 for planning consent.



Relevant Policies

The Development Plan

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires development proposals to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Development Plan for Barnsley consists of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019).

The Local Plan review was approved at a full Council meeting held 24th November 2022. The review determined that the Local Plan remains fit for purpose and is adequately delivering on its objectives. This means, no updates to the Local Plan, in whole or in part, are to be carried out ahead of a further review, which is due to take place in 2027, or earlier, if circumstances require it.

The development site is located within Barnsley Town Centre. The following Local Plan policies are relevant in this case:

- *Policy SD1: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development.*
- *Policy TC1: Town Centres.*
- *Policy BTC3: Public Spaces.*
- *Policy D1: High quality design and place making.*
- *Policy GD1: General Development.*
- *Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection.*
- *Policy T4: New Development and Transport Safety.*
- *Policy CL1: Contaminated and Unstable Land.*
- *Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.*

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance

In December 2024, the Government published a revised NPPF which is the most recent revision of the original Framework, first published in 2012 and updated several times, providing the overarching planning framework for England. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. The NPPF must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans and is a material consideration in planning decisions. The revised document has replaced the earlier planning policy statements, planning policy guidance and various policy letters and circulars, which are now cancelled.

Central to the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 10) and plans and decisions should apply this presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11). There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental; each of these aspects are mutually dependent. The following NPPF sections are relevant in this case:

- *Section 2: Achieving sustainable development.*
- *Section 4: Decision-making.*
- *Section 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities.*
- *Section 10: Supporting high quality communications.*
- *Section 12: Achieving well designed places.*
- *Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.*

The National Design Guidance (2019) is a material consideration and sets out ten characteristics of well-designed places based on planning policy expectations. A written ministerial statement states that local planning authorities should take this guidance into account when taking decisions.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

In line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Barnsley has adopted twenty-eight Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) following the adoption of the Local Plan in January 2019. The following SPDs are relevant in this case:

- *Advertisements (Adopted May 2019).*

The adopted SPDs should be treated as material considerations in decision making and are afforded full weight.

Other Material Considerations

- *Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy (September 2010).*

Representations

Whilst there is no statutory requirement for local planning authorities (LPA) to publicise applications for advertisement consent, an LPA should consider whether any application would affect the amenity of neighbours. Where it would affect them, it is good practice for the views of neighbours to be sought before determining an application. Both applications have been advertised in accordance with Article 15 of the Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

This application has been advertised on the Council website, and a site noticed was placed nearby that expired 18th April 2026.

No representations were received.

Consultations

Local Ward Councillors	<i>No comment(s) received.</i>
Highways Development Control	<i>No objection(s) subject to informative(s).</i>
Pollution Control	<i>No objection(s).</i>
Urban Design Officer	<i>No comment(s) received.</i>

Planning Assessment

For the purposes of considering the balance in this application, the following planning weight is referred to in this report using the following scale unless the NPPF establishes a specific weight:

- Substantial
- Considerable
- Significant
- Moderate
- Modest
- Limited
- Little or no

Principle of Development

Paragraph 141 of the NPPF: the quality and character of places can suffer when advertisements are poorly sited or designed. A separate consent process within the planning system controls the display of advertisements. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.

Policy BTC3: Public Spaces, establishes that new development must make a positive contribution to public spaces through its design, siting and use of materials.

Advertisements are acceptable in principle if proposals would be appropriate in scale and respectful of local character and would demonstrate that it would not be likely to result, directly or indirectly, in an increase in light or other pollution which would otherwise unacceptably affect or cause nuisance to the natural and built environment or to people.

Considering the above, the proposal is considered acceptable in principle subject to an assessment of the matters discussed below.

Impact on Visual Amenity

The Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy aims to create calming, cohesive and clutter free spaces. Queen Street and the surrounding area has been recently refurbished with works to improve the public realm aligned with the strategy principles. The strategy also includes a section dedicated to street furniture that establishes it will be a key feature in Barnsley and will have a functional role and help to create a distinctive sense of place. A single style of furniture will unite the inner core and outer core areas creating a cohesive town centre. Within this style it may be appropriate to vary the quality of finish depending on location (i.e. stainless steel vs. powder coated).

Policy BTC3: Public Spaces establishes that new development must make a positive contribution to public spaces through its design, siting and use of materials.

This application relates an existing BT payphone with associated advertising displays located to the south-western end of Cheapside near to the entrance of the Alhambra Shopping Centre and within an area of Barnsley Town Centre that is principally commercial in nature characterised by illuminated and non-illuminated signage to shopfronts, minimal street furniture and pedestrianised street through refurbishment works. There are numerous existing payphones and advertising displays throughout the town centre. The existing BT payphone is cuboid shaped, constructed of metal and enclosed on three sides with glazing to its north side and an advertisement on its east side.

Works have been undertaken to refurbish Cheapside and surrounding streets to provide high quality public realm, approved under application 2018/0279. As part of the refurbishment works new paving and new street furniture was installed. The pedestrianised street is now relatively open with minimal street furniture comprising lampposts and benches of a slim profile and materiality that is intended to complement and lift the cool tones of surfacing materials. This work was undertaken in alignment with the principles of the Barnsley Town Centre Public Spaces Strategy (2010).

The proposed BT Street Hub would measure approximately 2.98 metres (H) x 1.24 metres (W) x 0.4 metres (D). The BT Street Hub would be constructed of a galvanised mild steel frame with a black powder coated external grade aluminium exterior. The digital displays would be made of tempered and toughened laminated glass.

Within the context of the character of the street scene and surrounding street furniture, the proposed BT Street Hub would not appear bulky or overtly dominant. The proposal would result in no overall change in the amount of street furniture present with an existing BT payphone being removed to be replaced by one BT Street Hub. The BT Street Hub to be installed would adopt a scale similar to the existing unit albeit with a slightly reduced width and increased height. The BT Street Hub would also adopt a slimmer profile with a northwest-southeast orientation. It is acknowledged that the proposed BT Street Hub would be installed approximately 15.8 metres to the south-east of the existing location of the existing payphone. However, it is explained that this has been proposed to address previously stated reasons for refusal under applications 2025/0860 and 2025/0876 which should be welcomed. The new proposed location is relatively open and would not obstruct the use of benches by members

of the public. This is a positive change which is considered acceptable when also taking into account the surrounding commercial context.

While the Council would prefer to avoid new installations of street hubs and other communications kiosks alike, it would be difficult to provide a strong reason for refusal in this instance given that the proposal is for a replacement unit and would result in no net change to amount of advertising displays or street furniture in this area. While the new digital displays could introduce some harm by way of illumination, this aspect could be reasonably controlled by conditions. The digital displays would also be seen in the context of a well-lit environment comprising various illuminated signage to shopfronts and LED streetlighting.

A submitted product statement states that the BT Street Hub would be inspected weekly and cleaned at least every two weeks. This could be conditioned should this application be approved.

The reinstatement of the public realm following removal could also be secured by conditions should this application be approved.

Considering the above, on balance, this is considered to weigh moderately in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policies BTC3: Public Spaces and D1: High Quality Design and Placemaking and is considered acceptable regarding visual amenity.

Impact on Residential Amenity, Health and Safety and Pollution Control

The proposed BT Street Hub would not contribute to significant increased levels of overshadowing, overlooking and loss of privacy or reduced outlook.

Potential anti-social or criminal behaviour is not a material planning consideration. Nevertheless, this application is supported by an anti-social management plan which is welcome. The submitted details could be conditioned should this application be approved.

The proposed BT Street Hub would be installed in an area of Barnsley Town Centre that is principally commercial with no residential properties within the immediate locality. As such, the illumination and potential noise impacts is not considered to be detrimental to amenity. Nevertheless, this application is supported by a planning, design and access statement that includes a dedicated section to noise management. It states that the Street Hub would include controllable volume levels with the average volume settings being 65dB within three meters which is standard for conversational speech. While volume could be increased or decreased based on the preference of the user during the day, volume cannot be increased to greater than 60% of the maximum volume during the night. Potential noise complaints can be raised to BT, and the maximum volume level of the Street Hub could be adjusted. The maximum illuminations levels could also be conditioned. Pollution Control were consulted; and no objections were received.

Radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs) enable a number of modern devices, including mobile telecommunications infrastructure and phones, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. The requirements for the radio frequency public exposure guidelines are set out in the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and the European Union (EU) Council recommendation dated 12 July 1999 (Ref: 1999/519/EC).

This application is supported by a declaration of conformity with the ICNIRP guidelines.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh moderately in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy GD1: General Development and Local Plan Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection and is considered acceptable regarding residential amenity.

Impact on Highways

Paragraph 116 of the NPPF states development should only be prevented and refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety or the cumulative impacts on the road network, following mitigation, would be severe, considering all reasonable future scenarios.

Highways Development Control were consulted; and no objections were raised given the proposal would not result in an overall increase in street furniture and that the proposed BT Street Hub would be positioned in a pedestrianised area on a wide section of pavement without impeding pedestrian movements with ample footway width being retained. While the proposal is considered acceptable from a Highways Development Control perspective, it should be noted that the proposal would also require a Streetworks permit. Separate concerns could be raised at this time. As such, the proposal is not considered to be prejudicial to highway safety.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh modestly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy T4: New Development and Transport Safety and is considered acceptable regarding highway safety.

Impact on Contaminated and Unstable Land

Paragraph 196(a) of the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination, including risks that arise from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation).

Paragraph 196(c) of the NPPF establishes that planning policies and decisions should ensure that adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments.

Paragraph 197 of the NPPF states where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rests with the developer and/or landowner.

The development site is within a development high risk area as identified by the Mining Remediation (Coal) Authority.

This application is not supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment (CMRA). However, the proposal would be an exempt form of development under Part A (Advertisement Consent) and Part B where potential foundations or groundwork are expected to be minimal with minimal disturbance of ground.

As such, it was not necessary to consult either the Mining Remediation Authority (MRA) or the South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service (SYMAS) in this instance.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh modestly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy CL1: Contaminated and Unstable Land and is considered acceptable.

Impact on Biodiversity and Geodiversity

In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory from 12 February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) and means developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This proposal is exempt from BNG under the de minimis exemption.

Considering the above, this is considered to weigh modestly in favour of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Local Plan Policy BIO1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and is considered acceptable.

Planning Balance and Conclusion

In accordance with the provision of paragraph 11 of the NPPF (2024), the proposal is considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

For the reasons given above, and taking all other matters into consideration, this proposal conforms with the relevant local and national planning policies and guidance and planning permission should be granted subject to necessary conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve subject to conditions.

Justification

Statement of compliance with Article 35 of the Town and Country Development Management Procedure Order 2015.

It has not been necessary to make contact with the applicant to request amendments to the proposal during the consideration of the application, as it was deemed acceptable.

Due regard has been given to Article 8 and Protocol 1 of Article 1 of the European Convention for Human Rights Act 1998 when considering representations, the determination of the application and the resulting recommendation. It is considered that the recommendation will not interfere with the applicant's and/or any objector's right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

Conditions:

1. The development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved plans:

001 Rev. A Site Location Maps.

002 Rev. A Proposed Site Plan.

003 Rev. A Existing and Proposed Elevations.

Street Hub Product Statement V2.1 dated February 2025.

Planning, Design and Access Statement ref. 3-BNY006B and dated 5th March 2026.

Street Hub Anti-Social Behaviour Management Plan Version 3.

and specifications as approved unless required by any other conditions in this permission.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Place Making.

2. The advertisement displays hereby permitted shall not exceed the proposed maximum illuminance levels of 600 cd/m² between dusk and dawn.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and in accordance with Local Plan Policy D1: High Quality Design and Place Making and Local Plan Policy POLL1: Pollution Control and Protection.

Informative(s):

1. The granting of planning permission does not in any way infer that consent of the landowner is given. Therefore, the consent of all relevant landowners is required before proceeding with any development, including that of the Council as landowner.

If it should transpire that the applicant does not own any of the land included in this consent, then it is the responsibility of the applicant to seek all necessary consents and approvals of the landowner.