SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

1. Site Details

Site Name:	GF at Container Yard	Site Address:	Container Yard, Chichester Street, Milnrow, Rochdale, OL16 2AU
National Grid Reference:	E: 391008 N: 413349		
Site Ref Number:	CTIL_30286800	Site Type:[1]	Macro

2. Pre Application Check List

Site Selection (for New Sites only)

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

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

Site Specific Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Was there pre-application contact:	Yes
Date of pre-application contact:	N/A
Name of contact:	N/A
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised: A pre-consultation letter and plans were sent to the Local Planning Authority on 27/01/22 with no site specific comments received to date.	

[1] Macro or Micro

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Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

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1530 Arlington Business Park,
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Annual area wide information to planning authority

Has annual area wide information been provided?	N/A
If no explain why:	N/A
Summary issues raised: N/A	

Community Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model:	~~Red~~	Amber	~~Green~~
Outline of consultation carried out: Consultation with local Ward Councillor's for Central Rochdale Ward (Cllrs A Ahmed, I Ahmed, S Ali) and the local MP Tony Lloyd. Pre-application consultation letters and drawings of the proposals were sent to these parties on the 27.01.2022.			
Summary of outcome/main issues raised: No comments to date.			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college): The Manager Teddy Bear Nursery 167-169 Milnrow Road Rochdale OL16 5BA

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Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation): A copy of the plans and pre-application consultation letter was sent on 27/01/22.
Summary of outcome/main issues raised (include copies of main correspondence): No response 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	

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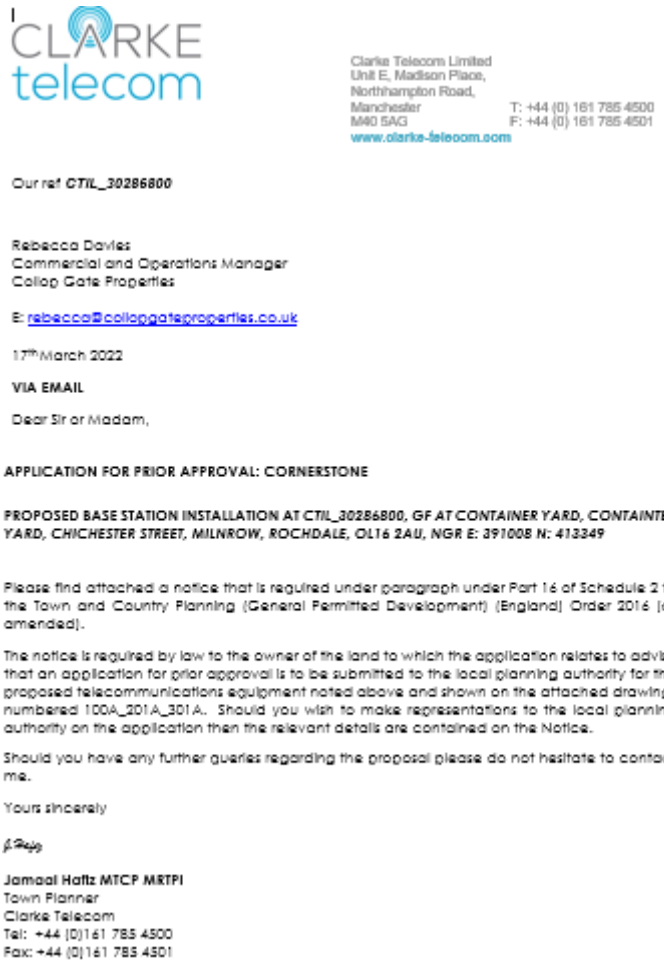
Date served :	Developers notice was sent to the site provider via email on 17/03/22 Proof deliveries and screenshots below.



CLARKE telecom

Clarke Telecom Limited
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Manchester
M40 5AG
T: +44 (0) 161 785 4500
F: +44 (0) 161 785 4501
www.clarke-telecom.com

Our ref **CTIL_30286800**

Rebecca Davies
Commercial and Operations Manager
Collop Gate Properties

E: rebecca@collopgateproperties.co.uk

17th March 2022

VIA EMAIL

Dear Sir or Madam,

APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL: CORNERSTONE

PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT *CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, NGR E: 391008 N: 413349*

Please find attached a notice that is required under paragraph under Part 16 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 (as amended).

The notice is required by law to the owner of the land to which the application relates to advise that an application for prior approval is to be submitted to the local planning authority for the proposed telecommunications equipment noted above and shown on the attached drawings numbered 100A_201A_301A. Should you wish to make representations to the local planning authority on the application then the relevant details are contained on the Notice.

Should you have any further queries regarding the proposal please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jamaal Haftz MTCP MRTPI
Town Planner
Clarke Telecom
Tel: +44 (0)161 785 4500
Fax: +44 (0)161 785 4501

Registered Address:
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www.clarke-telecom.com

Our ref ***CTIL_30286800***

Telefónica UK Ltd,
260 Bath Road,
Slough,
Berkshire,
SL1 4DX

DevelopersNoticeTEF@o2.com

17th March 2022

VIA EMAIL

Dear Sir or Madam,

APPLICATION FOR PRIOR APPROVAL: CORNERSTONE

PROPOSED BASE STATION INSTALLATION AT *CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, NGR E: 391008 N: 413349*

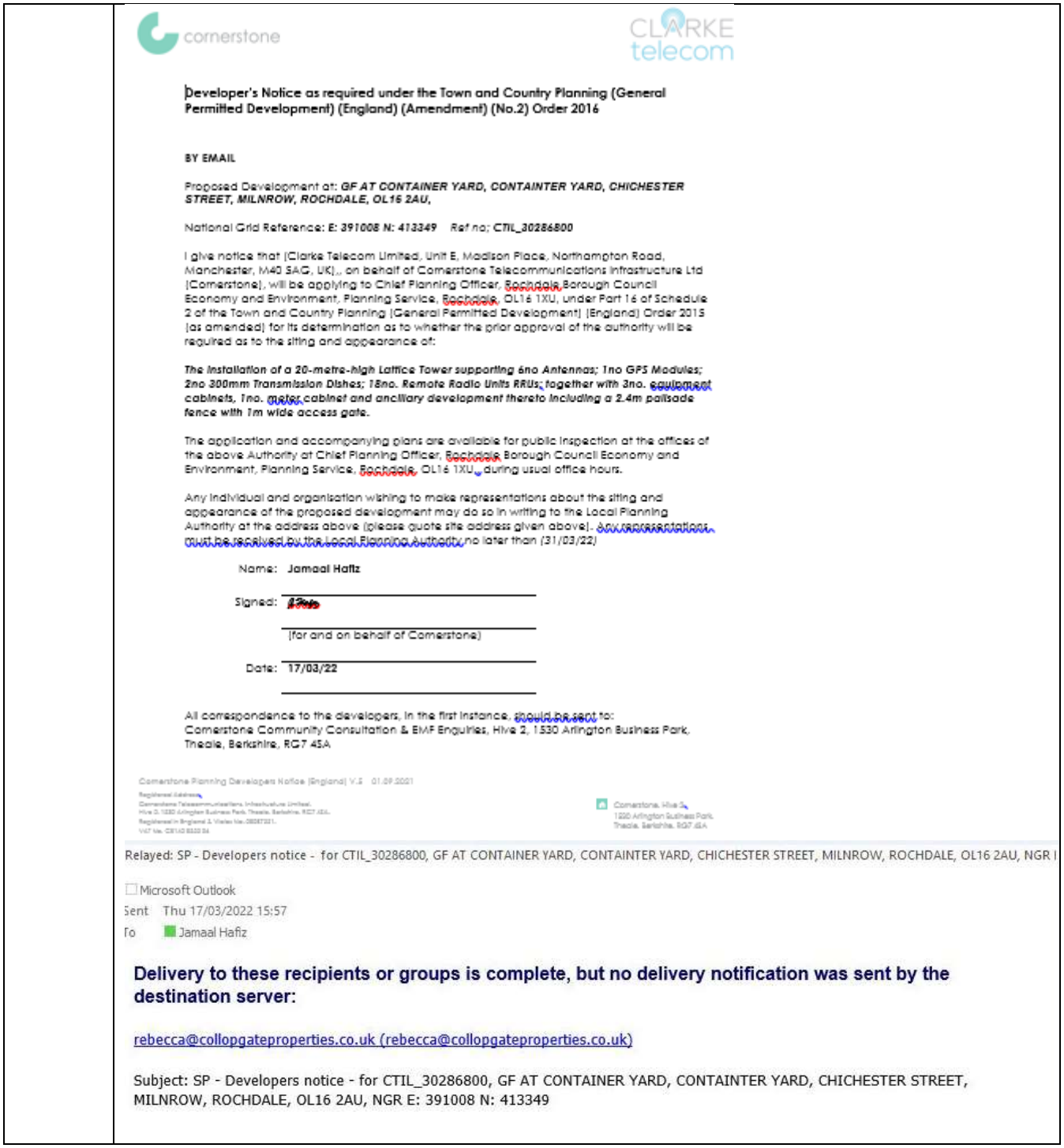
Please find attached a notice that is required under paragraph under Part 16 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2016 (as amended).

The notice is required by law to whom are of interest to the land to which the application relates to advise that an application for prior approval is to be submitted to the local planning authority for the proposed telecommunications equipment noted above and shown on the attached drawings numbered 100A_201A_301A. Should you wish to make representations to the local planning authority on the application then the relevant details are contained on the Notice.

Should you have any further queries regarding the proposal please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jamaal Hafiz MTCP MRTPI
Town Planner
Clarke Telecom



cornerstone

CLARKE telecom

Developer's Notice as required under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Order 2016

BY EMAIL

Proposed Development at: ***GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU,***

National Grid Reference: ***E: 391008 N: 413349*** *Ref no; **CTIL_30286800***

I give notice that (Clarke Telecom Limited, Unit E, Madison Place, Northampton Road, Manchester, M40 5AG, UK)., on behalf of Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd (Cornerstone), will be applying to Chief Planning Officer, Rochdale Borough Council Economy and Environment, Planning Service, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, under Part 16 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) for its determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to the siting and appearance of:

The installation of a 20-metre-high Lattice Tower supporting 6no Antennas; 1no GPS Modules; 2no 300mm Transmission Dishes; 18no. Remote Radio Units RRUs; together with 3no. equipment cabinets, 1no. meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including a 2.4m palisade fence with 1m wide access gate.

The application and accompanying plans are available for public inspection at the offices of the above Authority at Chief Planning Officer, Rochdale Borough Council Economy and Environment, Planning Service, Rochdale, OL16 1XU during usual office hours.

Any individual and organisation wishing to make representations about the siting and appearance of the proposed development may do so in writing to the Local Planning Authority at the address above (please quote site address given above). Any representations must be received by the Local Planning Authority no later than (31/03/22)

Name: **Jamaal Hafiz**

Signed: [redacted]

(for and on behalf of Cornerstone)

Date: **17/03/22**

All correspondence to the developers, in the first instance, should be sent to:
Cornerstone Community Consultation & EMF Enquiries, Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Cornerstone Planning Developers Notice (England) V.3 01.09.2021

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VAT No. GB142 8555 06

Cornerstone, Hive 2,
1530 Arlington Business Park,
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Relayed: SP - Developers notice - for CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, NGR E

Microsoft Outlook
Sent Thu 17/03/2022 15:57
To Jamaal Hafiz

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:

rebecca@collopgateproperties.co.uk (rebecca@collopgateproperties.co.uk)

Subject: SP - Developers notice - for CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, NGR E: 391008 N: 413349



Relayed: TEF - Developers notice - for CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, N

Microsoft Outlook
Sent Thu 17/03/2022 15:56
To Jamaal Hafiz

Delivery to these recipients or groups is complete, but no delivery notification was sent by the destination server:

DevelopersNoticeTEF@o2.com (DevelopersNoticeTEF@o2.com)

Subject: TEF - Developers notice - for CTIL_30286800, GF AT CONTAINER YARD, CONTAINTER YARD, CHICHESTER STREET, MILNROW, ROCHDALE, OL16 2AU, NGR E: 391008 N: 413349

Registered Address:
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3. Proposed Development

The proposed site:

Background

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

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

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

Telefonica requires new 5G to be installed on their network in this cell area due to the existing **Existing Vodafone Site (Outside Newbold Tyres), Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BQ, NGR E: 391172 N: 413237** cannot be upgraded due the existing installation not designed to be able to support both operators (Vodafone and Telefónica 5G antennas) without being radically redesigned and replaced with a much bulkier and bigger structure. This would have a much greater impact on the visual amenity of the streetscene. Therefore, a new replacement site for Telefonica is therefore needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies. The existing site will remain in place for Vodafone technologies.

The Proposed Site

The proposed site is to be located on private land at container yard off Chichester street, the immediate area is of an industrial nature however beyond are residential properties. To the east are residential properties, The north comprises of more industrial properties, to the west are more industrial premises. The immediate area also accommodates lighting columns and an existing telecoms pole. The installation has been sited sensitively to reduce any potential impact on nearby residential properties.

There are no townscape or cultural designations that affect the application site itself.

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

Type of Structure: Lattice Tower	
Description: The installation of a 20-metre-high Lattice Tower supporting 6no Antennas; 1no GPS Modules; 2no 300mm Transmission Dishes; 18no. Remote Radio Units RRUs; together with 3no. equipment cabinets, 1no meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto including a 2.4m palisade fence with 1m wide access gate. Details of the proposed equipment are detailed below.	
Overall Height: 20m including antennas	
Height of existing building *(where applicable)*	N/A
Equipment Housing: GFMC140 Cabinet (x1)	
Length:	0.470 Metres
Width:	1.000 Metres
Height:	1.000 Metres
Equipment Housing: Percy PSU (x1)	
Length:	0.700 Metres
Width:	0.730 Metres

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Height:	1.800 Metres
Equipment Housing: ERS Rack (x2)	
Length:	0.600 Metres
Width:	0.750 Metres
Height:	1.980 Metres
Materials *(as applicable):*	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour:	Lattice Tower - Galvanised
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour:	Equipment Cabinets – Grey

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

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

In order to fit in to the operator's network, an additional radio base station is required for Telefónica service. The site is needed to provide 2G, 3G, 4G coverage and capacity for Telefónica to ensure that its customers can experience access to the latest service provision currently available and have access to a new 5G network. This is because the existing Vodafone site cannot be upgraded for Telefonicas technology requirements for technical reasons more fully explained in the technical justification and discount sections below. The proposed new installation will also meet the extra demands on the network in this area as new technologies improve increasing the demand for 4G and new 5G technologies.

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

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

than an unshrouded antenna, an additional installation would be needed elsewhere within the cell area, leading to the proliferation of masts.

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

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

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

The 2no. transmission dishes are required in order for the new site link into the operators network they support the base stations functionality and without them the base station would not be able to operate effectively. Therefore, the dishes require a centre line height of 15.5m.

The RRUs are small each one about the size of a shoe box, whilst the GPS modules are each the size of a tennis ball. They are designed to make the antennas more efficient. Given their height above ground level underneath the antennas, at approximately 17m for the RRU's and 20m for the GPS, they will not be overly prominent in the area.

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

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Technical Information

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 minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, Telefonica UK Ltd 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 UK'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	Yes	

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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.		

4. Technical Justification

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

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

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

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

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.

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Site Type	Address	NGR	Reason for discounting
ETS – Existing Telecoms Site	Existing Vodafone Site (Outside Newbold Tyres), Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BQ,	E: 391172 N: 413237	The operator has fully investigated upgrading this site to provide the latest technologies for 4G services as well as new 5G coverage / capacity in to the Telefonica network. However, the slim line street furniture base stations that have been inserted into the local street scene are not capable of accommodating all of the differing equipment that is required to meet the site specific demand of both operators and customers for this area from a single street furniture pole, being mindful of the spectrum variations. To this end, many existing shared street-work installations are being removed from the 'single grid', meaning the existing pole will become operator unilateral for 5G provision. This creates the necessity for an additional new street furniture base station in the cell to accommodate the technological requirements of the other unilateral operator – either Vodafone or Telefonica (O2). To continue to share an existing structure at this location would require significant redevelopment of the existing structure to a much more structurally robust mast capable of hosting all the differing antennas and equipment from both operators to

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			address their spectrum variations. This would move away from the relatively uniform and slimline street furniture poles proposed and therefore it is felt that a secondary, more slimline, street-pole is a more appropriate and sensitive solution to 5G service provision whilst minimising impact for a street furniture setting. This existing telecommunications site has been discounted for Telefonica's new technology requirements for this reason. A new replacement site for Telefonica is therefore needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies. The existing site will remain in place for Vodafone technologies.
ETS – Existing Telecoms Site	Network Rail Mast, off Belfield Lane, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BA	E: 391019 N: 413292	Network Rail are unwilling to allow their infrastructure assets to be shared by a telecom operator due to the potential for interference between the frequencies each users equipment utilises and this could have serious H&S issues along the line.
SW – Streetworks	SW on Small Verge, Jct. Milnrow Rd & Newbold St, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5AH,	E: 391445 N: 413305	This location is situated on the very eastern edge of the operators search area and therefore coverage would likely be limited. It would also have more of an impact upon residential amenity than the application site
SW – Streetworks	Milnrow Road SW 2, Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BU	E: 391326 N: 413265	An installation at this location is considered to be surrounded by residential properties and too prominent within the streetscene.
GF – Greenfield	Asda Car Park, Kingsway, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5AF	E: 391619 N: 413225	An installation at this location is located too far to the East to deliver the required level of coverage to the

			target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
SW – Streetworks	SW adj. Nursery, Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5AQ	E: 390986 N: 413157	It is not possible to install a street furniture installation at this location due to unresolvable underground services (together with existing overhead BT lines which would inhibit the installation of a large pole) in order to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
SW – Streetworks	Bertha Road SW, Bertha Road, Rochdale, OL16 5BE,	E: 391169 N: 413150	An installation at this location is located too far to the East to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF – Greenfield	Land off Newbold Hall Drive, Newbold Hall Drive, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 3AJ,	E: 391276 N: 413315	An installation at this location is considered to be surrounded by residential properties, being set within a small recreation area/playground, and too prominent within the streetscene.

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SW – Streetworks	SW outside Wilco Motosave, Milnrow Road, Belfield, OL16 5BQ	E 390825 N: 413036	An installation at this location is located too far to the East to deliver the required level of coverage to the target area. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.
GF – Greenfield	Land at Sandersons Flooring, off Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BQ,	E: 390962 N: 413154	An installation at this location is considered to be too exposed (with limited screening/backdrop) and in direct view of residential properties. This site has therefore been discounted for this reason.

If no alternative site options have been investigated, please explain why: N/A
Environmental Information: No specific environmental considerations identified to date.
Land use planning designations: No specific land designations.
Additional relevant information (include planning policy and material considerations):

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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 (July 2021)

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

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

The NPPF makes reference to 5G:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> *'Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed*

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on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking in to account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken, should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation[42]'…

Footnote 42 of the NPPF states:

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

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

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

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have issued an updated Code of Best Practice which includes changes to further support the deployment of 5G coverage nationally. This Code provides guidance to mobile network operators, their agents and contractors and equally to all local planning authorities in England. It supersedes the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2016).

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

Principles and Commitment

Paragraph 8 of the revised Code reiterates that fast, reliable digital connectivity can deliver economic, social and well-being benefits for the whole of the UK. The Code continues to acknowledge that as the demand for mobile data in the United

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Kingdom is increasing rapidly, it is important that everyone can have access to dependable and consistent mobile coverage where they live, work and travel.

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

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

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

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

Siting and Design Principles

In line with this, is the recognition to continue to ensure that the impact of new network development is kept to a minimum. The Code states that good siting and design principles should continue to apply to all wireless network development and take into

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account any site-specific considerations and context, both of which can create better places in which to live and work and help make development acceptable to communities.

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

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

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

Key Technical and Operational Considerations

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

- **Coverage**: wireless infrastructure needs to provide an appropriate level of coverage over the intended geographical area. This involves ensuring that antennas are elevated sufficiently (often via masts) to provide clear lines of sight for signals.

- **Capacity**: where existing network infrastructure can no longer meet the demand for network capacity in a particular area, additional sites may be required within that coverage area to meet the demand. This is more likely to be required in densely populated areas or areas of high footfall.

- **Backhaul**: the radio access network requires a connection to the core network. Backhaul is sometimes provided by a microwave link, which requires a clear line of sight between the two ends of the link.

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

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

Paragraph 67 goes on to note that because of the scale and technological constraints of 5G equipment, previous camouflage design solutions, such as tree mast designs and concealing antennas in flagpoles, may not be practicable or suitable. In these cases, simple designs with particular attention to colouration and finishes may help reduce visual impacts on a site-specific basis.
The revised Code illustrates that mobile connectivity helps in the delivery of public services e.g. to access Central and Local Government via online services, acknowledging that lives are more likely to be saved when a 999 call is made from a mobile than from a landline, Telehealth is becoming increasingly important and text message reminders also improve compliance with medication and keeping NHS appointments.

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

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

Local Policy

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

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Rochdale's development plan currently comprises:

- Rochdale Core Strategy (2016); and
- Rochdale Borough Unitary Development Plan Policies (2006).

Unitary Development Plan Policies

Policy CF6 relates specifically to telecommunications development and states as follows:

Applications for planning permission or for prior approval (as required under Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995) for telecommunications masts, satellite and terrestrial microwave antennae on masts, and satellite and terrestrial microwave antennae on a building or structure will be permitted where the following requirements are met:

a) In the case of satellite and terrestrial microwave antennae on a building or structure the equipment is not detrimental to the character and design of the building or structure, to the character of the local street scene or to the visual amenity of the area;

b) In the case of telecommunications masts the development is not detrimental to the character and appearance of the local street scene or the visual amenity of the area;

c) The opportunity is taken to share sites or erect telecommunications equipment on an existing mast, building or other structure, unless this would be unacceptable in terms of increased height or visual clutter;

d) An applicant provides evidence of compliance with the Government guidelines on health impact of telecommunication use;

e) The equipment is sited and designed so as to minimise its visual impact subject to technical and operational considerations; and

f) The operator removes any apparatus when it becomes redundant.

The Council will use conditions and, where necessary, legal agreements to secure the above.

In the case of developments affecting landscape character. Sites and features of nature conservation value, sites of archaeology importance, a Conservation Area

and Listed Buildings or their settings, applications will not be permitted unless the Council is satisfied that:

i. The siting, scale or proliferation of facilities are not likely to injure significantly the special character or appearance of such areas, or that
ii. For technical reasons, no alternative location is suitable and the proposed development is sited so as to minimise any injury to that special character appearance.

Policy G/BE/1 (Design Quality) is a general design policy which states that development will be required to respond to its physical context, respect the positive character of the local area in which it is situated, and contribute towards local identity and distinctiveness.

Policy BE/2 (Design Criteria for New Development) states that the design and layout of new development will be required to be compatible with or improve their surroundings by virtue of their scale, density, height, massing, layout, materials, architectural style and means of enclosure.

Rochdale Core Strategy

The Core Strategy sets out the long-term spatial strategy for future development of Rochdale Borough. Rochdale has big aspirations, and this Core Strategy seeks to address the community's key priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It will also help to guide other strategies and plans of the Council and its partner agencies.

This Core Strategy seeks to deliver sustainable development and growth in accordance with the objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It aims to increase investment in the borough and to make it a more prosperous place by 2028. The Core Strategy will have a major role in guiding the regeneration of the borough, building on the investment that has already taken place in some areas and identifying where to focus on next.

Our Spatial Vision for Rochdale borough in 2028 …….

To become a prosperous borough: to grow our economy and develop our place through cooperation and partnership, improving the lives of local people.

Rochdale borough will be an attractive, vibrant and thriving place where people want to live, work, visit and do business.

Its population will be more prosperous, better educated and healthier.

It will offer locally distinctive towns and places. It will be celebrated for its greenery, water and natural assets (including biodiversity and geodiversity), its sustainable approach to growth, its Pennine character, its success as a business location, its connectivity with Greater Manchester,Yorkshire and beyond, its cultural heritage and its choice of housing. Its wider range of jobs will retain local talent and reduce dependence on outward commuting even more. The borough will be a more desirable place to live in with attractive housing and strong communities. Its urban green spaces will be much improved and the Roch Valley will form the backbone of a green network of urban corridors and countryside where opportunities for regeneration, leisure, wildlife and addressing climate change will have been taken. The Rochdale Canal and Corridor will be a regenerated asset, and rivers and other water features will be a stronger part of the identity of the borough and a better used asset by the local population and visitors.

The urban south of the borough will have thriving towns surrounded by attractive, productive countryside. It will have fully capitalised on the proximity of the M62, Metrolink and railway connections to develop its economy and living opportunities in a sustainable way. Langley, Kirkholt, Milkstone and Deeplish, and East Central Rochdale will have been successfully transformed and other communities in Inner Rochdale, Castleton, Central Heywood and East Middleton will be seeing the benefits of regeneration and housing growth.

Rochdale town centre will be a regenerated vibrant main centre. Kingsway Business Park will be a nationally acclaimed success. The north of the borough will have attractive housing communities, regenerated urban sites, and a stronger Pennine identity. Its countryside will have a stronger visitor economy and a better managed and more accessible landscape.

There are no specific telecommunications policies however the more general policies below would apply:

Policy P1 (Improving Image) is a general design policy which states that the Council will require new development to be of high quality design and improves the image of the Borough.

Policy P2 (Protecting and Enhancing Character, landscape and Heritage) deals with protecting and enhancing the Borough's character and distinctiveness.

Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy (June 2019)

This Local Industrial Strategy sets out how Greater Manchester (GM) will forge its future. It states that it will build on GM's position as a 'leading European digital city-region; enable the digitalisation of all sectors; and capitalise on the links between digital and creative industries that feed internationally significant clusters in broadcasting, content creation and media, and maximise growing assets in cyber security

It aims to put in place the integrated 21st century infrastructure needed for digital driven, clean and inclusive growth.

A top 5 city-region for the digital economy in Europe, with full fibre broadband and 5G coverage.

The Strategy states that GM will take a 'Made Smarter' approach to all industries, supporting forms to adopt new digital and creative techniques and enabling the digitalisation of all sectors.

The strategy has a specific section relating to infrastructure and acknowledges its importance:

'…The city-region now aims to upgrade, integrate and future-proof its infrastructure, to create a 21st century city-region with extreme digital connectivity, clean and inclusive growth and – through work with others – improved access to national and global markets. Existing partnerships are working to improve digital infrastructure in the city-region to meet national targets of roll out of 5G technologies for most people by 2027'.

The Local Industrial Strategy sets out an objective to ensure the vision for infrastructure is met:

- World-class connectivity – digitally and through an integrated transport network within all parts of GM.

To achieve the ambitions of the GM Local Industrial Strategy it identifies actions around 5 foundations of productivity: Infrastructure, Ideas, People, Business Environment and Places. These are noted as being essential attributes of every successful economy. It also identifies opportunities grouped under 4 Grand Challenges – Artificial Intelligence and Data, the Ageing Society, Future Mobility and Clean Growth.

The Vision for the Digital, Creative and Media is set out in the Local Industrial Strategy and reproduced below:

'GM will be a leading European digital City-Region, with the infrastructure, skills and networks needed to digitise all sectors, and internationally significant clusters in broadcasting, content creation and media and cyber security'.

To help meet the vision the strategy states that GM will continue to transform the digital connectivity of the city-region to drive economic growth and innovation, working with Government to meet national targets of full roll-out of 5G technologies for most people by 2027.

The Local Industrial Strategy acknowledges that GM will aim to become one of the best digitally connected city-regions in the UK. It fully supports the development of 5G networks.

Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework 2040 (GMCA)

This is a pre-cursor to the GM Infrastructure Strategy. The aim is to focus on developing infrastructure which ultimately improves the lives of all those living and working within Greater Manchester.

The Infrastructure Framework acknowledges a number of key challenges, one of which is digital and the need to provide pervasive, affordable, resilient digital connectivity. The Framework notes that 'Digital technology is increasingly the backbone of the major industries and our daily lives'.

The Framework goes on to states that approaching 2040, GM will need to be a Smart and digitally ready City Region. To achieve this, and support on-going digitalisation, the region will require resilient fixed connectivity (through fixed fibre) supported by 5G (and subsequent technologies). It will also need to streamline the process for installation of new infrastructure within the street space.

The Framework notes the vision for the GM Infrastructure Strategy:

'Develop and maintain a holistic infrastructure system that is robust, accommodates sustainable growth and supports the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Strategy to make "Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old".

The Greater Manchester Infrastructure Strategy should seek to:

o Support the lives and well-being of people, communities and the environment within Greater Manchester.

o Be age-friendly and support the economic and social participation of both young and old.

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o Support strategically identified growth for parts and communities within Greater Manchester.

o Be flexible, robust and met the existing and future needs of the communities and technological change.

o Provide world-class connections and access to opportunity for all.

o Provide world-class digital infrastructure which provides a platform for GM to embrace emerging technological and societal changes.

o Support a carbon-neutral GM and be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

The Framework identifies a key infrastructure trend to 2040 as Digital (Telecommunications Operators) including mobile infrastructure:

- As the population and employment is due to rise:

o more people will mean more homes and businesses, and more consumers of digital services.

o There will be a growing demand for high-speed, resilient data connectivity to facilitate changing patterns such as shopping patterns moving online, whilst flexible working becomes more prevalent.

- Changing workforce:

o More productive, higher skilled, higher paid jobs more specialised and skill activities needs digital infrastructure to support higher skilled industries – which may require increased digital infrastructure.

- Environmental Change:

o Improving efficiencies of buildings and appliances. The use of smarter technologies within each infrastructure sector will look to improve efficiencies further.

The Framework comments on digitalisation noting the importance of it and how it has transformed the way in which we go about our everyday lives:

'We live in an increasingly digital world. Technologies that are visionary today rapidly become part of everyday life tomorrow. In turn, people's expectations are rising constantly. "Digital" now encompasses an increasing array of technologies, from sensors, smartphones and robots, to augmented reality, cloud computing and data analytics. These technologies are changing the way in which we live and places we live in. Digital technologies are being used to make cities more smooth running, more

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productive, and more democratic. The pervasiveness of digital technology in our lives represents a major change. For these technologies to function effectively, it is fundamental that a robust and diverse underpinning infrastructure is installed that ensures a future-proofed platform for the development of these and many new technologies for years to come.

As our homes, businesses and cities become more reliant on digital technology to function the robustness of these systems becomes even more critical'.

The Framework states that 'anyone in GM should be able to access resilient, seamless connectivity at a speed they need anywhere and anytime'.

- New technologies, artificial intelligence and atomisation:

o Improvements in artificial intelligence and atomisation technologies will transform infrastructure sectors and business markets.

o Digital infrastructure will be crucial to supporting future technology and a Smart City Region.

o Embracing digital technology throughout all sectors, geographies and occupations is fundamental to GM's current and future international competitiveness.

The Framework acknowledges that the vision of moving to a smart and digitally-ready city- region requires future digital infrastructure to be strong fixed resilient connectivity, supported by 5G (and beyond), big data systems and other nascent technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and machine learning. Without connectivity it is acknowledged that processing the sheer volumes of data necessary to create a network of communicating devices will be impossible. As such, the Framework states that big improvements are required to increase the provision of wired and wireless (through 5G or subsequent technologies and Wi-Fi provision) across GM. Without the more basic technology solutions (such as passive fibre connectivity and 5G) the smart-region solutions and value-added outcomes will struggle to be brought to fruition.

The Framework notes that 5G roll out is expected from 2020. However, the timing and costs of roll out is uncertain and international standards have yet to be agreed. It is possible that there will only be one network upon which providers deliver their services or that each provider might need to invest. With regards to the Regional Centre if

Challenge 8 is to be met to provide pervasive, affordable, resilient digital connectivity the challenge is early roll out of 5G especially in areas where mobile data use is congested such as the Regional Centre.

The Framework also states that GMCA and the Districts together with digital and telecommunication providers need to drive forward opportunities to promote connectivity and uptake in the Regional Centre.

Online Nation 2020 Report (June 2020)

Online Nation is an annual research report, published for the first time in 2019. Using research produced both by Ofcom and others, it looks at what people in the UK are doing online, how they are served by online content providers and platforms, and their experiences of using the internet, alongside business models and industry trends. As well as looking at long-term trends, this year's report includes more recent data looking at online behaviour in the UK during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The Report sets out its findings:

With respect to the consumer and industry it found that time spent online, and associated revenues grew in 2019.

- In September 2019 the average time spent online each day by adults aged 18+ was 3 hours 29 minutes. In comparison, on average, adults spent 3 hours 19 minutes watching TV on a TV set each day,2 and 2 hours 40 minutes listening to radio each day.
- 71% of all measured time spent online was on smartphones. 35% of internet users only accessed the internet on mobile devices (smartphone or tablet).
- Just 13% of adults do not use the internet
- In 2020, a fifth (22%) of UK adults have a smart speaker in the home and 11% of all UK households own some kind of 'smart home' technology (including devices such as smart home security, smart lighting and smart heating).

Key Matrics Online Consumer Market

UK online consumer market	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Internet take-up (%)	76	79	80	82	85	86	88	87	87	89
Smartphone take-up (%)	27	39	51	61	66	71	76	78	79	82

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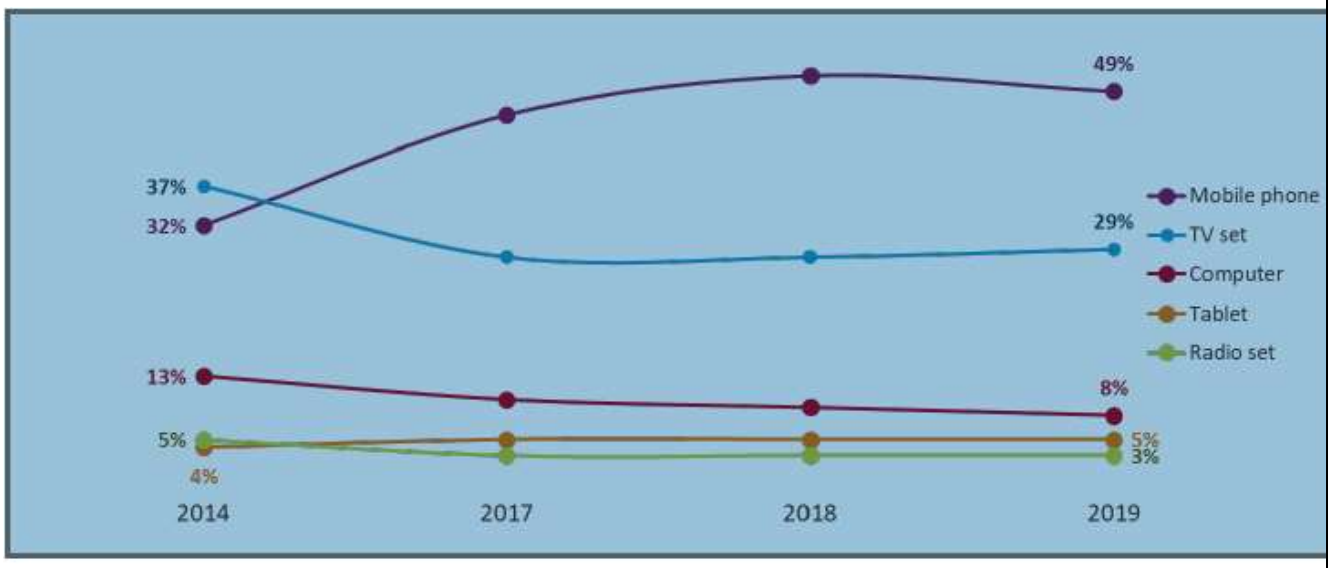
Tablet take-up (%)	2	11	24	44	54	59	58	58	54	52
Laptop take-up (%)	55	61	62	63	65	64	64	63	60	57
Consideration that the smartphone is the most important device for internet access (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	32	32	38	46	48	52	60

As the table above highlights 60% of the consumer market consider Smartphones are now the most important device for internet access.

In September 2019, 81% of all measured time spent online was on a mobile device (both tablet and Smartphone).

The table below indicates the most-missed device among adults: 2014-2019 were it be taken away from them. As can be seen, nearly half of all adults say that their mobile device is the device they would miss most were it taken away from them.



Source: Ofcom Adults' Media Literacy Tracker 2014-2019

The Report found that social media and messaging sites reach 98% of the UK adult digital population. On average, visitors aged 18+ spent 49 minutes per person per day on social media sites, considerably more time on average than in key areas such as news sites (12 minutes per user), e-commerce sites (14 minutes) and even gaming sites (31 minutes).

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Ninety-two per cent of time spent on social media sites took place on a mobile device (smartphones and tablets) rather than on a computer, compared to 81% of total time spent online.

The Connected Nations December 2020[2] report is published as the UK continues to address the challenges of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic; a time when people, families and businesses have come to rely on their phone and broadband connections as never before. We report on how the networks have performed during this period and how the availability of services has evolved.

The report sets out in its findings:

The UK's fixed and mobile networks have generally coped well with increased demands during the pandemic. A shift to more people being at home drove increased demand on broadband networks during the day, although peak usage remained in the evening. Mobile networks also experienced increases in voice traffic.

The number of mobile base stations providing 5G services has risen ten-fold, to around 3,000 across the UK. 87% of these are in England, 7% in Scotland and 3% in both Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mobile coverage is generally stable. The four mobile network operators (MNOs) – EE, O2, Three and Vodafone - each estimate they provide outdoor coverage to 98%-99% of premises. Their networks' coverage of the UK landmass ranges from around 79% to around 85%. The Shared Rural Network programme agreed in March 2020 will extend coverage beyond this by 2025.

A small, but significant number of properties are still struggling to get connected. We estimate that 43,000 premises cannot access either a decent fixed broadband service, or good 4G coverage, indoors.

Mobile data consumption continues to rise, increasing by 42% compared with last year. 83% of the total data traffic was consumed in England with about 10% in Scotland, 4% in Wales and 3% in Northern Ireland (largely in line with UK population distribution). Reflecting this growth, the traffic carried in England in June exceeded that carried across the whole UK in February.

The report acknowledges that being connected has never been more important in the UK. "*People have been relying on phone and broadband services more and*

[2] https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/209373/connected-nations-2020.pdf

more over recent years, and the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020 has brought this reliance into even sharper view. In March 2020, life changed suddenly for millions of people across the UK. Fast, reliable broadband and mobile connections were essential to allow them to work from home, keep up with schoolwork, access medical appointments and public services, stay in touch with friends and family, order shopping online, and keep themselves entertained".

The report acknowledges that "during the first COVID 19 lockdown, UK MNOs coped successfully with the changes in data and voice traffic volumes and distribution as many people began working from home and schools were shut during the Covid-19 spring lockdown. New peaks were reached for most of the network metrics reported by MNOs just before or during the week lockdown measures were first introduced across the UK in March 2020. Although these peaks generally reduced with the gradual easing of lockdown, they have remained higher than they were before (in line with the historical trend for incremental growth in data consumption)".

The report further notes that the "*MNOs all experienced some form of congestion on their networks in this period, but successfully mitigated this, in part by increasing interconnect capabilities between themselves. Some operators applied further temporary upgrades to their voice and data capabilities in order to cope with increased demands during this period, for example deploying temporary base stations in and around hospitals (particularly at the Nightingale hospitals) to provide additional capacity*".

"*Compared to periods before the spring lockdown, mobile voice traffic increased by 10-45% across the operators. One operator observed an increase in average call duration from about 2.5 minutes (pre-lockdown) to 4 minutes in the week lockdown measures were introduced. These call lengths and volumes spiked in March, before gradually stabilising. Within this general trend for growth, we can also observe drops in average call duration and data traffic around 8pm for the 10-week period from 26 March 2020, coinciding with the nation coming together to applaud the efforts of the NHS during the Covid-19 crisis. Increased amounts of voice traffic were also offloaded to Wi-Fi, although with significant variations between operators*".

Planning Issues

The main issues arising from this prior approval notification are whether the proposed lattice tower and cabinets due to their scale and siting would be a visually obtrusive feature which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area. Whether any perceived harm would outweigh the significant social and economic benefits associated with the increased service provision attributed to the proposal

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and other valid material considerations as outlined within NPPF, the Policies CF6, GBE1 and BE2 of the Rochdale UDP, Policies P1 and P2 of the Rochdale Core Strategy as well as the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework, and the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy which fully supports Greater Manchester's position as a leading European digital city-region and the development of 5G networks.

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

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

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

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

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

Siting

The siting of the proposed radio base station has been carefully considered. To this end, it is located, on private land in a break of the residential nature of the area, where demand for service provision is high from a range of types of users including residential and business premises. The site set within the context of an industrial area with nearby containers and buildings shielding part of the installation from certain

vantage points. Thie sites location will ensure that this installation will not appear prominent nor out of place in the area. This is in accordance with the Policies CF6, GBE1 and BE2 of the Rochdale UDP, Policies P1 and P2 of the Rochdale Core Strategy

The operator's lattice tower and equipment cabinets will be positioned within the fenced compound thus will reduce their prominence. Consequently, the context of the site is consistent with its location on private land by which a lattice towers would not appear to be uncommon. This is in full accordance with the Policies CF6, GBE1 and BE2 of the Rochdale UDP, Policies P1 and P2 of the Rochdale Core Strategy.

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

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

3G and 4G signals by their very nature (as they carry high data rates) do not penetrate over long distances, (5G even less so), just a few hundred metres, depending on the topography of the land, building clutter and vegetation including trees in the area which can reduce their effectiveness. Therefore 3G, 4G and 5G radio base stations need to be close to their customer demand which is normally in residential areas. In addition to this, this is a replacement new site for Telefonica who is unable to provide the latest 4G and new 5G technology from the existing site, as it is not designed to be able to support the 5G technologies for both Vodafone and Telefonica. Therefore Telefonica requires a new site to provide new 5G service provision as well as 2G, 3G and 4G coverage to this cell area. As this is a replacement site for Telefonica.

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

with the Local Planning Authority. The application package is accompanied by an ICNIRP certificate that demonstrates compliance with all relevant ICNIRP standards.

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

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

Appearance

In line with the guidance set out in Policies CF6, GBE1 and BE2 of the Rochdale UDP, Policies P1 and P2 of the Rochdale Core Strategy the visual impact on the area has been minimised. The radio base station is proposed to be a lattice tower which is required to provide the latest technologies. Given the makeup of the area that includes lighting colums near the proposals and thus will not appear out of place within the area which will be well shielded from certain vantage points on this industrial location.

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

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

This is a key site for the operator and is considered necessary in order to meet their 4G and 5G license obligations. Therefore, the proposed scheme is very significant in

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order to ensure that the national network is seamlessly linked from cell area to cell area, and that key settlements such as Milnrow get the connectivity they require in order for the customer to be able to continue to utilise their handsets for the purposes in which they were designed for.

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

In order to provide all multi technologies 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G on the same installation there is a requirement for 6 antennas and a proposed height of 20m. The technical reasons for the antennas being unshrouded and the proposed height have been fully explained in the reasons for design choice earlier in this supporting statement. currently being utilised by the operators at the existing radio base station.

The 2no. Transmission dishes are required to provide link into the operators network and required a clear line of sight at a centre line height of 15.5m. without these transmission dishes the radio base station would not be able to function.

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

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

Lack of Coverage – Material Consideration

In accordance with the NPPF, the proposed installation is significant to enable continuous coverage of the telecommunication network, ensuring that the area in and around this part of Milnrow get the mobile coverage it needs for Telefonica customers as well as new 5G coverage. It will also maintain and improve coverage for the Mobile Virtual Network Operator's (MVNOs) which use the Telefonica network

which includes GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, Talk Talk Mobile, and Lyca Mobile. So the proposal will not only provide a service for one operator but those who buy network space off them, which is at least 5 with Telefonica. This will provide a choice for those customers who consider the level of coverage in their area when selecting which operator they agree future contracts with.

The current proposals will facilitate the development of an advanced broadband telecommunications infrastructure in line with National Government guidance contained within the NPPF which supports infrastructure especially where growth takes place. It will also fully comply with the NPPF which supports development which improves digital infrastructure delivery to businesses and residents. By providing the latest 4G technology and new 5G service provision the proposals will also help meet the aspiration of the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy to be a world-leading digital city region. Embracing digital technology throughout all sectors, geographies and occupations is fundamental to Greater Manchester's current and future international competitiveness according to the Digital Strategy. Becoming a leading digital city-region is imperative to delivering the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy Vision of delivering the economic, social and inclusion improvements it needs and wants. It will help Manchester become the smartest city, an aspiration of the Greater Manchester Mayor. Digital growth plays a fundamental role in driving economic growth.

Providing 5G coverage in this area of the regional city will also be in line with the aspiration of the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy to be one of the top 5 city-regions for the digital economy in Europe, with full fibre broadband and 5G coverage. It will also support the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy aim to upgrade, integrate and future-proof its infrastructure to create a 21st century city-region with extreme digital connectivity, clean and inclusive growth and improved access to national and global markets. The proposals will also support the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy of having world-class connectivity digitally with the infrastructure to digitalise all sectors. As a result the Local Industrial Strategy fully supports the development of 5G networks.

New 5G coverage in this part of the city will also fully comply with the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework by helping to provide pervasive, affordable, resilient digital connectivity. The proposals will also help Greater Manchester to be a smart and digitally ready city-region, where resilient fixed connectivity supported by 5G service provision is required.

In line with the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework which fully supports the development of 5G, the proposals will provide world-class connections and access to opportunity for all in this cell area, as well as providing world-class digital

infrastructure which provides the platform for Greater Manchester to embrace emerging technologies and societal changes. As noted in the Infrastructure Framework 5G infrastructure is fundamental to enable digital technologies to function. The proposals will ensure that any Telefonica and Vodafone customer in this cell area will be able to access resilient, seamless connectivity at a speed they need anywhere at any time. Without the more basic technology solutions such as 5G, the Framework acknowledges that smart-region solutions and value-added outcomes will struggle to be brought to fruition.

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

Without this new 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. They would also not be able to access the 5G network, a demand which is increasing rapidly as customers update their handheld devices to ones that are 5G compatible. If the 5G network is not available then the customers' would not be able to utilise these handheld devices for the purposes in which they were purchased. It would also be contrary to the aspirations of Central Government which aspires to everyone having access to the superfast highway network wherever they are.

The proposed new radio base station is in full conformity with the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework, the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy whose ambitions for the city-region are to be a world-leading digital city-region to help capitalise on economic, social and inclusion improvements that the Greater Manchester region wants and needs, which aims to upgrade, integrate and future-proof its infrastructure, to create a 21st century city-region with extreme digital connectivity. It will help meet their aim of Greater Manchester becoming one of the best digitally connected city-regions in the UK, where development of the 5G network is fully supported.

The way 5G works, it is closely connected with the Smart City agenda and will enable centralized control of lots of different street infrastructure owned or managed by councils, such as street lights, water meters and bus stops. Greater Manchester is fully committed to being a smart city and being a world-leading digital city region, as highlighted in the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, Infrastructure Framework and Local Industrial Strategy. As such it needs the 21st century infrastructure to enable this objective to become a reality. A new installation in this location enabling 5G service provision to the Milnrow area will ensure that this aspiration is fully met.

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

Therefore the Government fully supports high quality communications infrastructure, even more so with the advent of 5G. The NPPF continues to strongly support telecommunications connectivity and states at paragraph 112 that local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks. It acknowledges that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well- being.

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

An installation in this location will fill the current gap in the latest high quality service provision and enable Telefonica and MVNOs who buy network space off Telefonica to maintain access to their handheld devices wherever they are for the purposes in which they were purchased. This is fully in line with the Government's aspirations that everyone has access to the superfast communications network, the NPPF, and the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, Infrastructure Framework and Local Industrial Strategy.

Access to the internet in whatever medium now impacts every facet of our lives but only benefits those who can access and use it. The benefits of internet connectivity are key for both residents and businesses alike and a new radio base station in this location providing the latest 2G, 3G,

4G and 5G technologies will support Greater Manchester's aspirations to be a world-leading digital city-region and one which promotes the growth of the digital sector, increasing digital inclusion, so all people can access services, education and training.

An installation in this location would fully meet the latest operators' coverage and capacity requirements for 3G, 4G and new 5G provision. This would be wholly in line with the Government's latest aspirations to strongly support advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure, essential for economic growth and social well-being. Where the NPPF notes that decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks. An installation outside this search area, regardless of whether there are existing sites, would not allow the operator to provide

their desired level of coverage and therefore would not adequately maintain and provide new coverage and capacity.

The Code of Best Practice acknowledges that upgrading and improving mobile networks will not be possible without the necessary infrastructure on which we rely. With increasing consumer demand and the Government's aspirations for high quality communications infrastructure it is ever more important to improve connectivity and capacity. The Code of Best Practice acknowledges that there will be times when there is a need for a new radio base station, where sites have been lost, where areas have limited or no coverage and where coverage and capacity need to be enhanced. This application is one such example where there is a need to enhance 3G and 4G provision and provide new 5G services within this area.

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

The Online Nation 2020 Report highlights the importance of continued access to the latest technology on mobile devices, with 35% of the internet users only accessing the internet on mobile devices (Smartphone or tablet).

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

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

Economic and Social Benefits

The NPPF strongly supports sustainable development, as does, the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, Infrastructure Framework and Local Industrial Strategy. Mobile communication plays a significant role in sustainable development. Being

able to access the internet via a mobile device allows people to access a wide range of central and local government services buy groceries, manage finances, apply for jobs/university, and carry out school projects, send emails, download applications, send and receive instant messages, participate in social media, streaming and downloading data to name just a few of the benefits of being able to use an internet enabled handheld device. It also allows people to work from home or on the move without needing to return to the office. Residents and businesses will enjoy better accessibility, assisting home-base working by improving the electronic means of communication and the roll-out of high-speed broadband helping to promote live-work development. This reduces travel time, carbon emissions and increases the speed in which information is processed/shared. The proposals therefore fully comply with NPPF, to minimise the effects of climate change reducing the need to travel and therefore the carbon footprint. It will support a carbon-neutral Greater Manchester and be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable in line with the GM Infrastructure Framework.

In such instances, as described above, the NPPF supports development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. Enhancing the 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity in this area and providing new 5G services will fully meet this national policy objective. Continuing to transform the digital connectivity of the city-region to drive economic growth and innovation, working to meet national targets of full roll-out of 5G technology for most people by 2027 will comply with the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy.

Mobile connectivity is essential to the future success of the economy. The combined value of 4G and 5G mobile connectivity is estimated to add £18.5bn to the economy by 2026 (Councils and Connectivity Sept 2018). Mobile connectivity is essential to creating a better society. Digital inclusion can help people gain employment, become more financially secure and improve health and well-being. Mobile connectivity is essential to fulfilling the potential of new technologies. Innovations such as artificial intelligence and connected cars will change how we work, spend our leisure time and run our public services. There is a demand for mobile connectivity in areas where geography, logistics or economics – or a combination of all 3, make it difficult. Mobile network capacity needs to grow to meet the demand of mobile users, who are consuming ever increasing amounts of data.

Paragraph 38 of the revised NPPF states that:

> *'Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including…permission in principle, and work*

proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision- makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible'.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Government is determined to ensure the UK receives the coverage and connectivity it needs. To this end, the Government wants to be a world leader in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity, and for communities to benefit from the investments in the new technology. The GM aspirations align with the Government objectives of being a world leader in 5G. The proposed installation will fully support these national and local aspirations.

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

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

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

Further to the Government's commitment to improve connectivity, on 24th November 2016 the new permitted development rights for telecommunication operators came into force, designed to lift the restrictions on mobile operators such is the significance

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and weight the Government place upon the benefits attached to modern connectivity.

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

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

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

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

On the 23 September 2020, the Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman MP spoke about the ongoing work by the Government and telecoms industry to boost the UK's world class digital connectivity in his keynote speech at Connected Britain 2020[3]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

….since the start of the 5G Testbeds and trials programme, we've now funded 24 5G testbeds across the UK. Between them, those testbeds have trialled almost 70 different 5G technologies, products and applications. And more importantly than

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/matt-warmans-keynote-speech-at-connected-britain-2020?utm_source=01ad07cc-6884-4d9b-a0ca-8c212f0a4289&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

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ever, we are investing in a range of sectors to foster, build and grow 5G cross wider industry...

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

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

In a more recent letter published by the Digital Infrastructure Minister Matt Warman MP on the 24 May 2021 (a copy is enclosed with the application docs) addressed to the local authority chief executives he spoke further about the Government's Commitment to extending mobile coverage:

'Digital connectivity is – now, more than ever – vital to enable people to stay connected and businesses to grow. The demand for mobile data is increasing rapidly, and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is that we all have access to reliable, high quality mobile connectivity…
…The Government is committed to extending mobile network coverage across the UK and providing uninterrupted mobile signal on all major roads, and our ambition is for the majority of the population to have access to a 5G signal by 2027…
…The National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") for England states that planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology, such as 5G…
…In relation to electronic communications development, it also states that local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only and they should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, or question the need for an electronic communications system. As set out in planning practice guidance, it is in the public interest for local planning authorities to have effective delegation arrangements in place to ensure that decisions on planning applications that raise no significant planning issues are made quickly and that resources are appropriately concentrated on the applications of greatest significance to the local area'.

On the 1 October 2020, as part of the Speed up Britain Campaign, The Centre of Policy Studies Report published '*Upwardly Mobile: How the UK can gain the full*

benefits of the 5G revolution'[4]. The report identifies what the 5G opportunities are and what the Government needs to do so we can all benefit from this vital new technology. It states that delays to the rollout of 5G could cost the country tens of billions of pounds in lost economic output. The former Government advisers Alex Jackman and Nick King argue that Government's 'levelling up' agenda and the UK's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is at risk without a faster 5G rollout – to the tune of £41 billion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[4] https://www.cps.org.uk/research/upwardly-mobile

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

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

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

The proposed installation in this location will allow the operator to provide new and improved high quality 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and capacity and new 5G service provision supporting the Government's aim of 'focusing on ensuring that everyone is connected to the information superhighway'. This fully meets the aspirations of the NPPF, and the Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, Infrastructure Framework and Local Industrial Strategy.

An installation in this location will ensure that the expansion of the electronic communications network is facilitated and that high quality communications infrastructure is provided to the immediate area. This is in full accordance with the operator's 4G license obligations and the Council's aims and aspirations to be a smart city and have high quality 5G infrastructure, promoting and growing the digital sector and increasing digital inclusion.

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

Education:

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

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

Health:

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

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

Summary

It is not possible to upgrade the existing radio base station situated at existing Existing Vodafone Site (Outside Newbold Tyres), Milnrow Road, Belfield, Rochdale, OL16 5BQ, NGR E: 391172 N: 413237 with the latest communication technologies. As it cannot be upgraded to support both operators without significant redevelopment which would be detrimental to the area. Therefore, a new installation for Telefonica is needed to provide this operator with the latest 2G, 3G 4G and 5G technologies. The existing site will remain in place for Vodafone.

The proposed site has been carefully sited which is capable of providing coverage to the target area. In addition the site is located on private land in an industrial location

from the immediate residential nature of the area. This context will help the lattice tower from appearing prominent in the local environ.

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

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

The social and economic benefits of providing reliable and high quality mobile broadband connections including 5G support growth in productivity, efficiency and labour force participation across the whole economy. This is fully supported by the NPPF, as well as the Policies CF6, GBE1 and BE2 of the Rochdale UDP, Policies P1 and P2 of the Rochdale Core Strategy, Greater Manchester Digital Strategy, Infrastructure Framework and Local Industrial Strategy. These benefits are strong material considerations which outweigh any perceived loss of visual amenity to the surrounding area.

Confirmation that submitted drawings have been checked for accuracy

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

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