
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

1. Site details

Site Name:	Delph Lane SW	Site Address:	Delph Lane Whiston Prescott Prescot Merseyside L35 7JH
National Grid Reference:	E:347933 N:392073		
Site Ref:	18613/KSY062	Site Type ¹ :	Macro

2. Pre-Application Checklist - Site selection

Was a local planning authority master register available to check for suitable sites by the operator or the local planning authority?	Yes	No
if no explain why No suitable alternatives were identified. Re-use of an existing telecommunications site is the preferred option.		
Was the industry site database checked for suitable sites by the operator?	Yes	No
if no explain why No suitable alternatives were identified. Re-use of an existing telecommunications site is the preferred option.		

Annual Area Wide Information to local planning authority

Date of information submission to local planning authority	Information not available
Name of contact	
Summary of issues raised:	

Pre-application consultation with local planning authority

Pre-application consultation with local planning authority		
Date of written offer of pre-application consultation	08/11/2021	
Was there pre-application contact		No
Date of pre-application contact	N/A	
Name of contact		
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised		
Offer of pre-application consultation issued but no response received to date.		

¹ Macro or Micro

Ten Commitments Consultation

Rating of Site under Traffic Light Model		Amber	
This site has been rated as amber for consultation purposes, due to the increase in telecommunications equipment on site and adjacent residential land uses. Pre-application consultation letters were sent out to the following people on 8th November 2021: Cllr Joanne Burke Cllr Pat Cook Cllr Kai Taylor Whiston Town Council Marie Rimmer MP No response received to date.			

School/College

Location of site in relation to school/college (include name of school/college)
The closest schools are Saint Luke's RC Primary School, located approximately 390m to the south west and St Edmund Catholic Academy, approximately 640m to the south south east.
Outline of consultation carried out with school/college (include evidence of consultation)
As neither school is in close proximity, it was considered unnecessary to consult either institution on this occasion.
Summary of outcome/Main issues raised
N/A

Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator consultation (only required for an application for prior approval)

Will the structure be within 3km of an aerodrome or airfield?		No
Has the Civil Aviation Authority/Secretary of State for Defence/Aerodrome Operator been notified		No
Details of response:		

Developer's Notice

Copy of Developer's Notice enclosed?		No
Date served	FULL PLANNING APPLICATION- Article 13 Notice served.	

3.0 Proposed Development

The proposed site:

The application site is located in North East Whiston, a town to the south east of Prescot. The proposed installation is sited within a mixed-use area around 100m to the north of the A57 (Warrington Road), which runs north-west to south-east and approximately 970m south west of Eccleston Park Train Station. The surrounding street scene contains a significant amount of existing street furniture, including tall trees, road signage and lampposts. The existing 15m monopole has been in situ since 2016 and has been identified by the applicant as requiring upgrade in order to enable the introduction of 5G technologies to the area.

The site does not lie within any restricted land designations or conservation areas, although the nearest green space is Henley Park, located to the immediate west of the site. The proposed monopole has been intentionally situated adjacent to established trees in order to reduce its visual impact on both the existing streetscene and the amenity of the adjacent park, ensuring that it would not appear out of place or overbearing. Other green spaces are located too far from the site to be impacted by the proposed replacement mast.

The nearest listed asset, is the Milestone on the NE verge of the A57 c.18m NW of Gilbert Road, Grade II, located approximately 287m north west of the proposed development. Due to the nature of this asset and the mature trees, roads and buildings in between, the historic asset will be screened from the proposed development. Likewise, the former Threshing Barn and Stable/Carriage House, Grade II, approximately 560m north east and Greenshouse Farmhouse, Grade II, approximately 570m north east will also be unaffected for similar reasons.

The nearest residential properties are blocks of flats situated to the east of the proposed site. The closest one is approximately 27m from the proposed development. A few of these flats will be afforded direct views of the development, however, it will be seen within the context of the existing vertical elements of the surrounding streetscene, meaning that it sits as an accepted part of modern infrastructure and street furniture, now a commonly seen piece of apparatus across the UK. In addition, the monopole and cabinets will be suitably coloured in order to allow them to blend as much as possible into the background. For example, at the existing site, some of the cabinets are coloured fir green to allow them to blend with the foliage behind, and as such the applicant would be willing to accept a suitable colour condition, if the LPA sees fit.

Full consideration has been given to alternative sites and other existing masts in the vicinity. However, the proposed location and design are considered to provide the optimum solution in this instance, the upgrade of this existing site will enhance the coverage of the existing 2G/3G/4G network and also implement 5G technologies providing enhanced coverage to the public and emergency services alike. The site has to fit into an existing network, this location will allow advancements in capacity and will give the opportunity for further people to work from home as well as support emergency services in receiving real time data, inevitably enhancing 2G/3G/4G communications which is imperative in times of crisis, as shown with the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, re-use of an existing site represents the preferred option, as outlined in the NPPF discussed in further detail below.

For the avoidance of doubt, the applicant would like it understood that although this upgrade is being carried out by H3G (UK) Ltd alone, the existing EE (UK) Ltd equipment will be carried over to the

replacement site, thus avoiding any unnecessary proliferation of telecommunications equipment in the area.

Aerial views of the existing and proposed sites.



View looking south (The proposed monopole would be on the right hand side)



View looking north (The proposed monopole would be on the left hand side)



Planning History

Existing mast

16/00401/FUL

Full planning application for the removal of existing 15m high telecommunications monopole and installation of replacement 15m high telecommunications monopole and 1 no. equipment cabinet together with associated works (MBNL)

Approved 12/08/16.

12/00078/TEL

Installation of 15m high telecommunications pole together with associated equipment cabinets (CTIL)

Refused 14/02/12; allowed on appeal 06/12/12.

11/00473/FUL

Full planning application for the installation of a dual user 17.5 metre high telecommunications monopole housing 6no. Telefonica and Vodafone multi-band antennas stacked one above the other together with 4 no. equipment cabinets surrounded by 6 no. concrete bollards (CTIL)

Refused 07/11/11.

Current Telecommunications Use/ The Future

Since the date of the above decision, mobile operator networks have been under increased pressure to provide up-to-date telecommunications functionality, as mobile phones and mobile broadband use have become increasingly essential to our daily lives. 5G is the next generation of technology to enable increased connectivity with increased data speeds. The growth of digital connectivity over the last decade and the expectations of users have advanced at an unprecedented level. The NPPF recognises that "Advanced high quality and reliable telecommunications infrastructure is essential to economic growth..." , as will be considered in more detail below. The current proposal will provide positive benefits to the community which will far outweigh any perceived negative impacts. MBNL have produced an advisory note entitled 5G and Future Technology- Delivering the UK's Telecoms Future and this is enclosed as part of the application.

Enclose map showing the cell centre and adjoining cells:

The proposed development provides a solution to upgrade the existing site. The existing coverage will be maintained and the technology will be upgraded to provide 5G. It is therefore not considered necessary to provide coverage plots in this instance.

Type of Structure (e.g. tower, mast, etc):

Description: - The upgrading of the telecommunications base station located at SW on Delph Lane, Whiston, Prescot, Merseyside, L35 7JH.

The installation of a 20m monopole, 9 no. antennas, 4 no. equipment cabinets, and ancillary equipment, alongside the relocation of 1 no. equipment cabinet and the removal of the existing 15m monopole, 3 no antennas and 4 no. cabinets alongside any redundant ancillary equipment.

Overall Height:	20m
Height of existing building (where applicable)	N/A
Equipment Housing	

Length	As per attached drawings
Width	
Height	
Materials (as applicable)	
Tower/mast etc – type of material and external colour	As per attached drawings
Equipment housing – type of material and external colour	As per attached drawings

Reasons for choice of design:

The mast has been specifically designed for the site in question, taking into account the existing street scene. Whilst the proposed replacement mast is taller than that which already exists, it needs to be in order to introduce the required technologies to the area. It is necessary for the height of the structure to ensure that interference is avoided, to ensure the topography of the landscape does not have an unacceptable impact upon mobile signal quality and that the structure is able to support the 5G antenna and other apparatus. The site needs to be tall enough to satisfy ICNIRP standards, if the height of the mast were to be reduced, it would not provide the levels of coverage and capacity of the existing and emerging networks/technologies.

Whilst the monopole will stand above the existing apparatus, the proposal needs to be seen in the context of the overall benefits that will occur from the introduction of 5G technologies to the area. The proposal includes the removal of the existing mast and associated redundant equipment. Furthermore, re-use of an existing telecommunications site will avoid the need for a proliferation of additional telecommunications sites in the immediate area.

Ground based equipment has been specifically sited, as to assimilate into the surrounding landscape, set back from the roadside on the verge, this location will allow for free passage by pedestrians. Ground based equipment has also been positioned, as not to impede upon the visibility splays of road users along Delph Lane.

The existing 15m mast and associated equipment has been in situ for a considerable amount of time without causing any undue harm to its setting. Every effort has been made in relation to the equipment associated with the installation, to keep visual intrusion to a minimum. Consideration has been taken in order to reduce the cumulative impact that a telecommunications installation in this location may have upon the vicinity.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there is an increase in the scale of telecommunications development on the site, the location of the monopole is broadly the same. In addition, the proposed site will also be seen in the context of the existing vertical structures, whilst the proposed design is considerably larger than existing street lighting columns and road signage, the height of the proposed apparatus is the minimum capable of providing the technological improvements sought. It should be noted that the new technologies will provide advanced high-quality communications infrastructure essential for economic growth as sought by the NPPF.

4.0**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, H3G (UK) Limited operates its network in such a way the radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision As part H3G (UK) Limited's network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way. All operators of radio transmitters are under a legal obligation to operate those transmitters in accordance with the conditions of their licence. Operation of the transmitter in accordance with the conditions of the licence fulfils the legal obligations in respect of interference to other radio systems, other electrical equipment, instrumentation or air traffic systems. The conditions of the licence are mandated by Ofcom, an agency of national government, who are responsible for the regulation of the civilian radio spectrum. The remit of Ofcom also includes investigation and remedy of any reported significant interference. The telecommunications infrastructure the subject of this application accords with all relevant legislation and as such will not cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest.	Yes	
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Frequency	To be provided on request
Modulation characteristics ²	To be provided on request
Power output (expressed in EIRP in dBW per carrier) In order to minimise interference within its own network and with other radio networks, T-Mobile operates its network in such a way that radio frequency power outputs are kept to the lowest levels commensurate with effective service provision. As part of T-Mobile's network, the radio base station that is the subject of this application will be configured to operate in this way.	To be provided on request
Height of antenna (m above ground level)	20m

5.0 Technical Justification

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

The proposed development provides a solution to upgrade the existing site. The existing coverage will be maintained and the technology will be upgraded to provide 5G. It is therefore not considered necessary to provide coverage plots in this instance.

Background:

As part of H3G Ltd.'s continued network improvement program they wish to upgrade the existing site to facilitate additional coverage and capacity requirements, incorporating new technologies. Section 10 of the NPPF sets out the Government's general overview regarding supporting high quality communications infrastructure, recognising that advanced, high-quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. In order to keep the number of base stations to a minimum, the use of existing sites is considered to provide the optimum solution and accordingly the proposed site upgrade should be viewed positively. As such, no alternative locations were sought in this instance.

Base stations use radio signals to connect mobile devices and phones to the network, enabling

² The modulation method employed in GSM is GMSK (Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying) which is a form of Phase Modulation.

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

people to send and receive; calls, texts, emails, pictures, web, TV and downloads. Without base stations, mobile devices and phones will not work.

Many other everyday items also use radio signals to send and receive information, such as television and radio broadcasting equipment and two-way radio communications. Base stations are connected to each other and telephone exchange buildings by cables or wireless technology such as microwave dishes, to create the network. The area each base station covers is called a "cell". Each cell overlaps with its neighbouring cells to create a continuous network. The size and shape of each cell is determined by the features of the surrounding area, such as buildings, trees and hills which can block signals. When people travel between cells, the signal is transferred between base stations without a break in service. Each base station covers a certain area only and can only handle a limited number of calls at once. As mobile phones and devices become more popular, more base stations are needed to ensure continuous coverage.

It is imperative that support is given to the introduction of new infrastructure to allow new technology which will allow networks to be able to handle more data and connect more devices simultaneously at much faster speeds. This will enable places to remain competitive and will support the Government's ambition for the UK to become a world leader in telecommunications technologies and development. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is a significant increase in the scale of telecommunications development on the site, it should be noted that the new technologies will provide advanced high-quality communications infrastructure essential for economic growth as sought by the NPPF. Any perceived negative impacts will be far outweighed by the overall benefits of the scheme and the location of the apparatus on a building which already supports extensive telecommunications equipment will minimise its potential impact on the immediate environment.

All H3G installations are designed to be fully compliant with the public exposure guidelines established by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). These guidelines have the support of UK Government, the European Union and they also have the formal backing of the World Health Organisation. A certificate of ICNIRP compliance will be included within the planning submission.

Alternative sites considered and not chosen:

Site³	Site Name and address	National Grid Reference	Reason for not choosing⁴
GF	Henley Park, L35 5AF	E:347911 N:392033	Whilst there is room for a new site here and the trees would provide additional screening, it would be contrary to policy to site a mast within this green space when the proposed is available.
RT	Whiston Hospital	E:347853 N:391902	The hospital, whilst a suitable building is on the edge of the search area for this cell and would not be the most efficient deployment of telecoms equipment as it could led to a requirement for another site further north of the existing.
RT	Nightingale House	E:348034 N:391550	Again, the industrial units whilst suitable are outside of the search area.
RT	Lancaster House	E:347981 N392101	The rooftops of these apartment blocks now host solar panel and are therefore not available for additional equipment to be sited.
SW	Whiston Cross	E:347953 N:392367	This location is surrounded by existing residential and emerging housing development and is therefore not preferable in comparison to the existing which offers a site with little visual impact to residence in the coverage area.
SW	Delph Lane	E: 347933 N:392007	The proposed location has less of a visual impact when compared to other available options on Delph Lane and have therefore been discounted.

³ ETS - Existing Telecomm site, ES - Existing Structure, RT - Roof Top, GF - Greenfield

⁴ SP - Site Provider, RD - Redevelopment Not Possible, T - Technical Difficulties, P – Planning
O – Other

Additional relevant information

Planning Policy Assessment

Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with policies of the adopted Statutory Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in July 2021 and supersedes previous versions of the document and national planning guidance contained in the various Planning Policy Guidance notes and planning Policy Statements. The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies and how these are to be applied in relation to all planning applications.

Under Section 6 paragraph 81 the NPPF advises....” *Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development.*” In terms of supporting a prosperous rural economy paragraph 85...” *The use of previously developed land, and sites that are physically well-related to existing settlements, should be encouraged where suitable opportunities exist.*” The proposal seeks the upgrade of an existing telecommunications site, rather than utilising land which has not previously been developed. This approach provides a sustainable solution to the need to upgrade telecommunications services in the area which will benefit not only the local community, but also visitors to the area and potentially reducing the need to travel.

In section 10 of the new NPPF, the document seeks to support “*Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure*” ensuring that it is “*essential to economic growth and social wellbeing*”. It advises that “*planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections.*” Paragraph 115 states “*the number of radio and electronic communications masts, and the sites for such installations, should be kept to a minimum consistent with the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion. Use of existing masts, buildings and other structures for new electronic communications capability (including wireless) should be encouraged. Where new sites are required (such as for new 5G networks, or for connected transport and smart city applications), equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate.*” The proposal allows for the re-use of an existing telecommunications site which will be upgraded to allow for the introduction of 5G technologies.

Paragraph 116 continues “*Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new electronic communications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of electronic communications development, or insist on minimum distances between new electronic communications development and existing development. They should ensure that:*

- a) they have evidence to demonstrate that electronic communications infrastructure is not expected to cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest; and*
- b) they have considered the possibility of the construction of new buildings or other structures interfering with broadcast and electronic communications services.*

The scheme will not cause any undue impact on the services outlined above and fully

complies with ICNIRP standards. An ICNIRP certificate is enclosed with the application. The proposal has been designed with the aim of achieving a balance between minimising visual impact and achieving the technical requirements for H3G (UK) Ltd to enhance telecommunications services in the area to the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area. It will make effective use of the land as set out under Section 11 of the NPPF. It is considered the proposed development complies with the broad aims of the NPPF. It assists in the aim to keep the number of installations to a minimum, by utilising an existing site. The equipment has been sympathetically designed, with the pole being kept to the minimum practicable height for the required to accommodate 5G network coverage, thus enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services without detracting from local amenity. More sensitive sites were specifically avoided and re-use of an existing telecommunications site provides the optimum solution in this instance.

Local Planning Policy

The statutory development for the area is comprised of Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy 2016, adopted January 2016 and Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006 Saved Policies, issued January 2016.

Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy 2016 (adopted January 2016).

Policy SD1 Sustainable Development

- 1) When considering development proposals, a positive approach will be taken, which reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. Work will be undertaken proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.*
- 2) Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and any relevant policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.*
- 3) Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then permission will be granted unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether: a) Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or
b) Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.*

The introduction of high-speed 5G technologies to this part of Whiston will enable the area to be future-proofed, ensuring that communities and businesses are able to be sufficiently agile to respond to the changing nature of our society and world. Improvements in connectivity and capacity will enable more people to work flexibly from home and benefit from high-speed downloads. In turn, this will lead to a reduction in commuting which will help reduce the impact this community will have on climate change and the environment around them. It will also provide enhanced capacity and coverage to nearby Whiston Hospital, especially the usage of the ESN, which is provided by EE (UK) Ltd.

Policy CS2 Development Principles

- 1) *New development in Knowsley and the preparation of subsequent stages of the Local Plan will be expected to support the following development principles:*

Principle 1: Promote sustainable economic development, tackle the causes of deprivation and disadvantage and narrow the gap between the richest and poorest neighbourhoods by:

- a) Meeting needs for new housing, employment, retail and other service provision;*
- b) Improving business productivity and employment levels in Knowsley;*
- c) Reducing economic, environmental, education, health and other social inequalities between Knowsley and other parts of the UK; and*
- d) Providing opportunities for positive lifestyle choices and health improvement for people of all ages.*

Principle 2: Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change by:

- a) Contributing to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from all sources, in line with national targets;*
- b) Ensuring an ability to adapt to future changes to national targets for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, including recognising the role of new technology;*
- c) Identifying and applying measures offering effective mitigation and adaptation to likely environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change; and*
- d) Meeting appropriate minimum standards for sustainability.*

Principle 3: Reduce the need to travel and increase accessibility by:

- a) Selecting locations that reduce the need to travel, especially by car, and enable people as far as possible to meet their needs locally;*
- b) Assisting the Council in achieving a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport for people, goods and freight;*
- c) Encouraging safe and sustainable access for all, particularly by promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling between homes and employment; and*
- d) Supporting the provision and retention of shared space, community facilities and other local services (such as local shops, health facilities, education provision, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship).*

Principle 4: Recognise environmental limits, protect and enhance environmental assets, enhance local character and promote quality of place by:

- a) Understanding and respecting the character and distinctiveness of places and landscapes;*
 - b) Protecting and enhancing the historic environment;*
 - c) Promoting good quality design and ensuring that development respects its setting taking into account relevant design requirements, and best practice;*
 - d) Maximising opportunities for the regeneration of previously developed land, including derelict or unsightly areas to improve the image of Knowsley and use land resources efficiently;*
 - e) Mitigating potential negative impacts of traffic growth and road traffic on highway safety, air quality, noise and health;*
 - f) Supporting policies relating to Green Infrastructure and the greening of towns and cities;*
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- g) Maintaining or enhancing the tranquillity of open countryside and rural areas;*
 - h) Maintaining or enhancing the quantity and quality of biodiversity and habitats, including potential impacts on nationally and internationally important sites for biodiversity;*
 - i) Addressing any issues of unstable land, resulting from Knowsley's legacy of minerals extraction; and*
 - j) Minimising negative impact upon flood risk, air quality, water quality, land quality, soil quality, and noise or vibration levels and ensuring any negative impacts are appropriately mitigated.*
- Development that will have an unacceptable impact upon any of the above will only be permitted where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the harm.*

Principle 5: Make the most efficient use of available resources and infrastructure by prioritising locations consistent with the spatial strategy, which:

- a) Do not require major investment in new infrastructure, including transport, water supply and sewerage, or where this is unavoidable, incorporate appropriate development phasing and delivery assistance;*
 - b) Ensure environmental protection is enhanced through the phasing of new development and delivery of supporting infrastructure, including working with neighbouring authorities and key partner agencies where appropriate;*
 - c) Support prudent and efficient management of natural and man-made resources; and*
 - d) Promote sustainable construction and efficiency in resource use (including reuse and recycling of materials).*
- 2) The development principles are not in order of priority, will be applied equally alongside other Local Plan policies, and will be implemented using development assessment tools including:*
- a. Environmental Impact Assessment and associated legislative requirements;*
 - b. Health Impact Assessment;*
 - c. Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment;*
 - d. Transport Assessment and Travel Planning; and*
 - e. Design and Access Statements.*

The proposed application would be located within a mixed-use area which is currently undergoing an expansion in residential development requiring up to date infrastructure with increased capacity from electricity, gas, water, sewage and communications systems.

The mast would allow for the introduction of 5G technologies within the area. This would support both local businesses and residents. The re-use of an existing site is in line with government guidance and would allow for the development of a fast and reliable network. Given these circumstances it is considered that the above policy has been complied with as the proposal seeks to replace the existing and use the same location in general for the upgraded proposal.

Policy CS8 Green Infrastructure

Maintenance and Enhancement of Knowsley's Existing Green Infrastructure

- 1) Knowsley's existing Green Infrastructure and its beneficial functions will be protected, managed and/or enhanced, primarily to:*
- a) Ensure more attractive and cleaner residential neighbourhoods;*

- b) *Sustain and promote biodiversity (including designated sites, priority habitats and protected and endangered species) in accordance with importance and contribution to ecological networks;*
 - c) *Preserve the character and function of historic environments and valued landscapes;*
 - d) *Mitigate the effects of climate change and flood risk;*
 - e) *Mitigate air, water and noise pollution;*
 - f) *Provide local opportunities for sport, recreation and allotments; and*
 - g) *Provide sustainable transport linkages between residential neighbourhoods and easy access to employment and services.*
- 2) *To achieve the above, planning powers and other interventions will be used to:*
- a) *Protect and enhance strategically important areas of greenspace;*
 - b) *Ensure an appropriate quantity and improved quality of locally important open spaces, including outdoor sports provision (and ancillary facilities of appropriate scale);*
 - c) *Promote effective movement of wildlife through a network of strategic green links, by protecting, maintaining and improving existing and new open spaces, water courses (including water quality) and biodiversity assets;*
 - d) *Protect, enhance and/or introduce biodiversity into existing areas of Green Infrastructure, through integration into the design of new development and public realm projects;*
 - e) *Improve accessibility for communities to greenspace offering leisure and recreation opportunities;*
 - f) *Protect and where possible improve green paths and cycleways linking residential areas, existing strategic areas of greenspace, employment locations, local community services and leisure facilities;*
 - g) *Work in partnership with other districts and relevant bodies at a landscape scale to minimise the impact of development upon Knowsley's existing biodiversity and geological assets, and sustain the protection afforded to internationally important sites, including supporting habitat, for biodiversity outside of the borough; and*
 - h) *Deliver new integrated and functional Green Infrastructure that helps to mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as sustainable drainage systems, carbon capture and storage, soft landscaping and green roofs.*
- 3) *Site allocations for greenspace will be identified in the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies document, with further guidance set out in the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document or future Supplementary Planning Document as appropriate.*

Strategic Green Links

- 4) *Knowsley's strategically important green links are:*
- a) *Alt Corridor (Hayton) – stretching from Hayton Village through South Alt Park, Alt Park, Alt Meadows and into Stockbridge Village;*
 - b) *Valley Corridor (Kirkby) – stretching through Valley Meadow, St. Chad's Park, Millbrook Park, Millennium Green and Mill Dam;*
 - c) *Whiston to Cronon Corridor – stretching through Cronon, Stadt Moers Park and Whiston Greenway;*
 - d) *Halewood Triangle – Halewood Park linkage with the Trans-Pennine Trail and to the national cycle network;*
 - e) *M57 Green Belt Corridor; and*

- f) *Knowsley Hall Estate – including Knowsley Safari Park and Local Wildlife Sites.*

Green Infrastructure within the Liverpool City Region

5) Knowsley Council will work with partners to help deliver local and sub-regional programmes, initiatives and strategies to enhance Green Infrastructure.

Approach to Green Infrastructure and New Development

6) New development must be served by Green Infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and the local environment, in a manner which will:

- a) Contribute to the creation of a high-quality residential environment;*
- b) Provide access to high quality open space for leisure and recreational purposes;*
- c) Seek to protect, maintain and where possible enhance biodiversity within and around new developments according to their designation and significance to provide space for nature; and*
- d) Provide adequate mitigation and/or, as a last resort, compensation for Green Infrastructure or biodiversity loss, in circumstances where harm resulting from the development is otherwise unavoidable.*

The application site is located immediately to the east of Henley Park. The proposal would be situated on a green verge adjacent to the pavement. There will not be any undue harm to the park from either the construction or existence of the proposed mast, as evidenced by the existing site being in situ with no harm for a considerable number of years (for both MBNL and CTIL). Therefore, it is contended that this proposal complies with the above policies.

Policy CS21 Greenspaces and Trees

Greenspace protection

- 1) In supporting the wider Green Infrastructure functions of urban greenspace in accordance with Policy CS8, the Council will provide and maintain quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for different types of public open space.*
- 2) New development which would result in the loss of urban greenspace, will not be permitted unless at least one of the following criteria are met:*
 - a) A surplus of provision for all types of greenspaces would be maintained relative to local standards;*
 - b) The land is considered unsuitable in terms of size, location or character to prevent or address individual deficiencies of different types of greenspaces relative to local standards;*
 - c) Appropriate mitigation is provided through replacement facilities of at least an equal quantity, quality and accessibility;*
 - d) The development is required to improve greenspace provision or for ancillary facilities to support sport or recreation; or*
 - e) Where the proposal relates to the loss of indoor or outdoor sports provision, and there is no evidence of future or continuing need for sports use, or alternatively only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or sporting facility is affected and its release accords with either clause 2) a) or 2) b).*
- 3) Irrespective of whether criteria in 2) are met, unless the benefits of a proposal clearly outweigh the loss of urban greenspace, development will be resisted where it would significantly harm any existing or potential special qualities of greenspace*

in the area in terms of:

- a) Visual amenity;*
- b) Residential amenity;*
- c) Biodiversity and environmental benefits;*
- d) Historical, cultural or community value;*
- e) Recreational benefits; or*
- f) Physical and/or visual linkages between adjoining urban greenspaces.*

Local Greenspace Standards

- 4) The quantitative and accessibility standards for the provision of public open spaces within Substantial Residential Areas are set out in Table 9.1: Substantial Residential Area (SRA) Standards for Greenspace Quantity and Accessibility for the following greenspace typologies:*
 - a) Park and Garden;*
 - b) Amenity Greenspace;*
 - c) Provision for Children and Young People; and*
 - d) Allotments.*
- 5) The Council's quantitative standards for Outdoor Sports Provision are set out in Table 9.2: Community Area Standards for Outdoor Sports Provision Quantity and Accessibility and seek to maintain an appropriate range of sites and address quantitative needs for individual sports at a Community Area level.*
- 6) The Council will keep the standards of provision referred to above under review and if necessary, publish revised standards in a future Local Plan document or Supplementary Planning Document.*

Accessible and Quality Greenspaces

- 7) The Council will support improvements to existing and new areas of greenspace in accordance with best practice standards¹²⁷, to achieve the following requirements:*
 - a) Accessible, safe and secure locations for all members of the community to use;*
 - b) Clean and well-maintained facilities, equipment and open spaces; and*
 - c) Conservation of natural features, wildlife, fauna, landscapes, buildings and other structural features, as appropriate.*
- 8) When considering proposals for new residential development, the Council will seek enhancements to greenspaces via on-site provision, new off-site provision or enhancement of existing off-site provision through developer contributions secured by legal agreement in accordance with Policy CS27: Planning and Paying for New Infrastructure, the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and/or a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, as appropriate.*

Local Green Spaces

- 9) Any Local Green Spaces Designations which are formally designated will be identified in the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies or future Neighbourhood Plans (if applicable). This designation will only be used where the greenspace concerned is:*
 - a) Reasonably close to the community it serves;*
 - b) Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local*

significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
c) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

Enhancement of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Tree Protection

- 10) The Council will encourage proposals for new development to incorporate:*
- a) Retention of existing trees, woodland, vegetation and other habitat features which offer a positive contribution to the local environment in terms of visual amenity, recreation value or biodiversity/wildlife interest;*
 - b) Appropriate planting of trees, other soft landscaping and installation of habitat features for the benefit of biodiversity; and*
 - c) Adequate replacement provision where tree loss is unavoidable, comprising two additional trees for every tree lost and taking account of species and size.*

The introduction of high-speed 5G technologies to this part of Whiston will enable the area to be future-proofed, ensuring that communities and businesses are able to be sufficiently agile to respond to the changing nature of our society and world. Improvements in connectivity and capacity will enable more people to work flexibly from home and benefit from high-speed downloads.

The proposed installation has been designed with the existing character of the area in mind. This area of Whiston is adjacent Henley Park and the surrounding area is mainly residential, therefore the slimline nature of the monopole has been chosen to ensure that it has minimal impact, resembling as much as possible the existing street furniture along Delph Lane. Despite being directly adjacent the park, the applicant has chosen to site the development near a number of established trees so as to minimise the impact on the park. As mentioned above, the applicant is also amenable to ensuring the monopole and cabinets are suitably coloured to ensure they blend as much as possible into the background. It is also of the minimum height required to accommodate the technologies required to bring 5G to this area of Whiston.

Knowsley Replacement Unitary Development Plan 2006 Saved Policies (issued January 2016).

ENV 8 – Telecommunications Developments

- 1. Proposals for new telecommunications masts and associated antennae and buildings will not be permitted unless the applicant has demonstrated that the following criteria would be satisfied:*
 - a) Where the proposal is for a free-standing mast, the need for the development could not, for technical reasons, be met in a more environmentally acceptable manner by:*
 - Sharing an existing mast or site,*
 - Erecting antennae on an existing building or other structure;*
 - b) The development would not, by reason of its scale, siting or design, have an unacceptable impact on the character or appearance of the surrounding area, or the amenity of nearby residents.*
- 2. New telecommunications development will not be permitted within environmentally sensitive areas, such as Conservation Areas, residential areas or the Green Belt, unless the applicant has demonstrated that there are no other suitable alternative*

sites outside such areas and that appropriate steps have been taken to minimise any visual impact through careful siting, design and screening.

3. *Applications for development by telecommunications code system operators must be accompanied by:*
- a) Evidence that the proposal would comply with all relevant ICNIRP14 Standards (or future guidance which may supersede the current guidelines), taking into account any cumulative emissions from other nearby telecommunications equipment;*
 - b) Evidence of how the proposal fits into the wider network, regionally and nationally.*
 - c) Where the telecommunication development would be on or near a school or college site, evidence that the governing body of the relevant school or college has been consulted.*

The proposed application is for a new mast which would upgrade an existing cell. This is in line with government guidance. The proposed mast would not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of any adjacent dwellings. It would not appear as an overbearing structure within the existing street scene as it would be located adjacent to large trees and an existing lamppost whilst the immediate area has been a location for telecoms equipment and therefore a strong principle is set.

The proposal would not be located within an environmentally sensitive area and relevant documents showing the structure would comply with relevant *ICNIRP14 Standards* have been submitted as part of this application.

It is imperative that local authorities support applications for new 5G masts in order to allow for the development of a fast and reliable network. This would support both local businesses and residents.

The proposed application is to facilitate cutting-edge 5G technology, in conjunction with other sites across the area. The development of such a network would support the work of businesses in the area and provide important services for the local community. In addition, it would allow for people to work from home with an efficient and reliable 5G service, reducing the need for travel, cutting emissions and creating sustainable workspace.

The 5G network is to be the fastest service that operators can provide. The new technology will enable easy and rapid access to information. The services provided by the mast will benefit the entire local community. Visitors to and through the area, local businesses, students and others would benefit from the faster and more reliable telecommunications network that this mast would contribute to, leading potentially to further business growth and a stronger local economy. Taking all of this into consideration, it is contended that this policy would be complied with.

CONCLUSION

There is a requirement for H3G to provide advanced telecommunications technologies to this industrial/commercial area of Whiston. Network planners have identified a need for an upgraded installation and the proposed development will address this identified need and continued customer demands.

National planning policy is to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications

systems, and operators have obligations to meet customer demands for improved quality of service. This application explains the technical need for the installation to provide improved customer service.

In terms of siting and design, it is considered that the proposal responds well to the character and appearance of the local environment and will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the application site or the surrounding area. The design is of a high standard, and will not detract significantly from the existing visual and environmental character of the area. The benefits to residents and visitors to the area, by the introduction of 5G technologies to the area far outweigh any potential perceived negative impacts. In all these circumstances it is concluded that there no policy or other objections that would warrant the refusal of planning permission and accordingly permission should be granted for the proposed development.

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