

Head of Planning
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
PO Box 26
Archway Road
Huyton
L36 9FB

26th September 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

**BT COMMUNICATIONS STREET HUB PROJECT
FULL PLANNING & CONSENT TO DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS APPLICATIONS
KNOW009 – PAVEMENT O/S KIRKBY MARKET, MARKET SQUARE, KIRKBY, LIVERPOOL, L32
8RW**

We write on behalf of our client, BT, following our pre- application consultation relating to various sites, including the entitled, across your authority for the installation of BT Street Hubs. BT are moving forward with this particular case and are applying to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for full planning permission and advertisement consent for installation of 1no. BT Street Hub.

To recap, the InLink UK service was first launched in 2017 and since then 494 InLink structures were rolled out in 23 cities. These first-generation units offer 1Gbps free public Wi-Fi, free UK calls, USB charging, an emergency services button and a range of other digital services for those in the vicinity. HD displays on the sides are used to carry advertising, which helped to fund the units and its free services, but the screens can also show local content free of charge. The suppliers of InLinks unfortunately went into administration in 2019 and are no longer able to supply units to BT, hence this product is no longer available. Since then, BT have been working on a new and improved unit of their own, the BT Street Hub 2.0, that they are keen to rollout in your local authority area.

BT Street Hub Project

BT is continuing to move forward with public connectivity and benefits in which BT Street Hubs will provide a sleek and modern answer to the ever increasing demands of a digitally connected society. BT Street Hubs have all the existing features of the previous InLink unit but has better Wi-Fi range and capabilities to include environmental sensors, insight counting and small cell mobile connectivity. The addition of the 5G small cells into BT Street Hubs is very much in line with current UK Government's guidance on communications infrastructure and the National Infrastructure Strategy. This is echoed in the Government's commitment towards telecommunications deployment which has been strengthened since the conception of InLinks as NPPF 2021, paragraph 114 in particular confirms that; *'Advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social well-being. Planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G).'*

Since the rollout of InLinks, there has been increased focus on green initiatives and environmental monitoring. BT Street Hubs take this into account and have sensors that can count pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle movements as well as monitor air, sound and light. This free information has its own dashboard and will help the planning system actively manage patterns of growth in support of national air quality objectives and the Government's ten-point plan for a Green Industrial Revolution. It can be

a useful source of real-time data in the delivery of the Council's own green agenda, travel plans and the data collected can help present a business case for carbon offset credit.

Overall, BT Street Hubs will help future proof the high street making them smarter, safer, and more sustainable, while also providing a valuable contribution to the Government's aim to improve wireless communications across the UK. Investment in the high street is at an all-time low, but that has not slowed BT down as they look to ramp up their rollout of new BT Street Hubs across the UK. They are continuing their commitment to invest and improve in the high street, with one BT Street Hub at a time, and with that decluttering these environments with the associated removal of existing BT phone boxes.

It should be highlighted from the outset that this is a joint submission for full planning permission relating to the installation of the BT Street Hub itself and consent to display advertisements relating to the 2no. digital screens that will be hung within the unit. The applications have been submitted as one via the Planning Portal and so should be split into two separate cases by the LPA using the same documentations, one for Full Planning Permission and one for the Consent to Display Advertisements. In this respect the submission comprises of the following documents:

- Site specific Planning, Design and Access statement
- Application forms and certificates generated by the Planning Portal
- The prescribed combined fee of £924 paid directly to the Council via the Planning Portal
- Location Plan with the application site edged in red
- Proposed Site Plan
- Existing and Proposed Elevations
- Photomontage of the proposed installation
- BT Street Hub All Elevation Spec Drawing
- BT Street Hub All Unit Elevations
- BT Street Hub Product Statement giving full details of the proposed structure
- BT Anti-Social Behaviour Management Plan
- 'The Institute of Lighting Professional's 'Professional Lighting Guide 05: The Brightness of Illuminated Advertisements' 2015 (ILP) for your reference, and:
- International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) certificate.

Where possible, we have specifically drawn the red line around the proposed BT Street Hub.

The application site and BT Street Hub proposal itself are found on adopted highways controlled land that is maintained at the public expense. BT are a statutory undertaker and can install communications equipment on the adopted highway, hence an owner's notice has been served on the Highways Authority and any others who have been identified from Land Registry records.

We trust the applications can be registered at your earliest opportunity, whereby you can assign references and for consistency allocate the same case officer to deal with both full planning and advertisement consent elements. We look forward to hearing from you soon with this detail in which should you require any further information to validate the applications or have any queries please do not hesitate to email me.

Yours faithfully



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