



WILLIAM MORRIS

Legal & Corporate Communications

Digital Infrastructure Statement

Applicant:

Nu-fit Design Ltd,
354a Hollinwood Avenue,
Manchester,
M40 0JB

Agent:

William Morris Project No. 28-0711.42
William Morris Environmental Consultant
Russell Street
Leeds
LS1 5RN

Application Site

11-19 Bolton Street,
Bury,
BL9 0EY

Application Details:

Second floor/roof extension to form 9 no. apartments and increase in retail space to ground floor (02955E)

This report takes into account the particular
Instructions and requirements of our client.
It is not intended for and should not be relied
Upon by any third party and no responsibility
Is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 137482-00

William Morris
Sheaf Street • Suite 43 • Leeds
Phone 0113 245 9487

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Aims and Objectives.	3
3.0 Digital Connectivity Strategy.	3
4.0 Building Regulations.	4
5.0 Fibre Optic Broadband	4
6.0 Telecommunications equipment.	5

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Digital connectivity is vital for meeting some of the key challenges of our age - from sustainable growth to climate change mitigation and the management of scarce resources including water and energy and improving people's life chances through the provision of access to retail, leisure, education, and health facilities.

This strategy will ensure that the proposal can deliver its ambition of outstanding and much needed digital connectivity and that our region continues to exceed the ambitious targets set by central government on the availability and accessibility of digital connectivity across the UK, supporting effective public service delivery, thriving communities and sustainable economic growth. Building on investment in digital infrastructure to develop connected communities is central to the vision for the region.

Mobile and fixed connectivity to the internet continues to be increasingly important to residents and local businesses and in many ways has already become the 'new utility' in most people's lives. We are now living in an era of increasing digitisation across all industries. The government targets for coverage continue to rise, as they should, which means the pressure to reduce barriers and improve efficiencies will also continue. Set against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis and increasing reliance on digital connectivity in everyday life, together with a rapidly changing commercial telecoms market and unprecedented digital delivery, it is important that the deployment of digital infrastructure is delivered as efficiently as possible and that those who are at risk of remaining digitally excluded are identified and provided with the tools they need to thrive.

The programme will deliver across 3 themes

Infrastructure – ensuring that fast and reliable digital connectivity is available across the region to meet the connectivity needs of residents and businesses. Focussing specifically on future-proof full fibre, 4G and 5G as well as other advanced wireless and satellite communication solutions.

Innovation – supporting and demonstrating the capabilities of innovative solutions to offer a wide range of benefits for residents, visitors, and businesses. Encouraging commercial and government investment to develop innovative solutions in the region.

Inclusion – empowering our residents and businesses to develop the skills and confidence they require to make the most of the digital connectivity available to them and raising awareness of the benefits of being online. Working collaboratively to promote access to affordable connectivity and devices. This new strategy aims to promote and encourage inclusive access to online public and community services, and has been written to align with and complement not only the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan but also other national, organisational and partner strategies including:

Employment and Skills Strategy: It is important that local people can access support into education and employment how and when they need it, at any point in their lives and whatever their starting point. Fast and affordable Digital Connectivity will help to reduce barriers and support access to education and employment opportunities.

National strategies including the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy and 5G supply chain diversification strategy, the proposal will encourage tenants investment by explaining the benefits of wireless infrastructure and linking these to digital inclusion and economic growth ambitions of the region. We will do this by attracting investment and identifying and removing barriers to support mobile operators to bring standalone 5G coverage to all populated areas by 2030. We will also identify investment opportunities and undertake pilot projects to attract new suppliers into the UK Market to drive competition. This strategy also complements and supplements Burys wider strategic frameworks and ambitions to help people become capable of using and benefiting from the internet.

2.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Bury Council have been a driving force for digital inclusion in Greater Manchester, working alongside local community partners, volunteers, and organisations to fix the digital divide. The council has created a comprehensive support network aimed at enhancing digital skills, providing connectivity, and promoting social inclusion across the borough.

Many residents of Bury, particularly from priority groups such as older adults, migrants and minority groups, the unemployed and under-employed, face barriers to accessing digital services. Limited digital literacy and financial constraints are key factors in individuals' exclusion from accessing essential online services.

The main objective for Bury's digital inclusion team was to create accessible spaces where residents could improve their digital skills, gain confidence in using technology, and connect with essential services. The aim was also to provide affordable connectivity solutions, especially for those who struggled with broadband or mobile data costs.

Bury Council is committed to delivering more "Tech and Café" Digital Drop-ins throughout the area and encouraging residents to sign up for some of the funded courses at Bury Adult Education, Bury College and partner program providers to expand resident's skills further from beginner, intermedia and advanced level.

A Device Refurbishment Scheme is also being worked on to meet the gap of available devices in the most disadvantaged communities and help all residents be digitally included included those that are residents of This proposal.

3.0 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY STRATEGY

Fixed Broadband

National Government policy identifies that gigabit capability is critical for sustainable economic growth, the provision of high quality online public services and the delivery of digital and social inclusion. Demand continues to grow, with an 11% increase in average data use in the last year alone.

The enabling work that has already taken place to deliver superfast and gigabit capable broadband has provided a solid foundation for the future delivery of gigabit broadband to the more challenging areas across Bury.

Bury council envelopes a large and diverse area that has a number of hard-to-reach rural communities. These locations are very unlikely to see commercial gigabit deployments in the near future and therefore the Faster and higher

capacity mobile solutions have an even greater reliance on fibre connectivity to provide the connectivity between mobile towers and other wireless infrastructure.

Mobile Broadband?

4G continues to be the backbone of data connectivity for mobile devices providing access to services, entertainment, shopping, digital payments/banking, home/remote working and socialising due to its wide coverage and compatibility with most modern devices. Ofcom report that network data usage in the UK continues to rise by almost 40% year on year and reliable connectivity has therefore become a fundamental expectation for both residents and businesses.

Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) as part of their estimated £2bn annual investment in new infrastructure in the UK are continuing their rollout of non-standalone 5G (deployed on top of existing 4G infrastructure) across the region with many areas soon to benefit from the availability of 5G coverage. Mobile UK reported in 2023 that there were 111.8 million mobile subscriptions in the UK in 2023, 87m active mobile devices and 25m connected things. 5G will significantly increase the capacity of the networks allowing more devices to connect and helping to eliminate ‘not-spots’.

The programme will unlock opportunities for sustainable economic growth using world-class digital infrastructure supporting standalone 5G (where the whole network has been upgraded with 5G technology, rather than using a mix of 5G and 4G) and other advanced wireless technologies. These leading-edge communication technologies are seen as key to harnessing digital transformation in building a more inclusive, competitive, and innovative digital economy. We will be responsible for driving adoption of 5G. This new wireless standard is particularly important in business and industry where advanced wireless technologies are proving transformative, especially when combined/incorporated with Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies.

4.0 BUILDING REGULATIONS

In January 2017 a digital connectivity requirement (Part R) was introduced to Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations 2010. This requires physical infrastructure to support high-speed broadband in all new building developments and major renovation projects.

5.0 FIBRE OPTIC BROADBAND

The proposal recognises the importance of digital infrastructure in enterprise development and expects high speed digital infrastructure in all employment developments.

In order to support the expansion of digital infrastructure and help businesses in all employment developments access highest available broadband speeds, the proposal will provide on-site infrastructure, including open access ducting to industry standards, to enable all premises to be directly served by fibre optic broadband technology.

Enabling works for digital infrastructure will be considered at the planning stage in order to ensure connectivity is provided without disruption to the occupiers.

The developers will work with a network provider from the early stages of the planning of their development and on a non-exclusive basis during the construction phase. This will reduce delays in connecting to existing networks and reduce lead-in times if the existing network requires capacity upgrade to serve the development.

7.0 TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

Proposals for the installation of telecommunications equipment such as masts, cabinet boxes and satellite dishes, erecting antennae or other such structures will be determined in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 5 – Supporting high quality infrastructure (paragraphs 42 to 46).

In line with the NPPF, the proposal will support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. In particular, the proposal will aim to keep the numbers of radio and telecommunications masts and the sites for such installations to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. Existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used unless the need for a new site has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council.

Where new sites are required, equipment should be sympathetically designed and appropriately camouflaged where possible. The Council will require applications for telecommunications development (including for prior approval under Part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order) to be supported by the necessary evidence to justify the proposed development. The evidence should include:

- the outcome of consultations with organisations with an interest in the proposed development, in particular with the relevant body where a mast is to be installed near a school or college; and
- for an addition to an existing mast or base station, a statement that self-certifies that the cumulative exposure, when operational, will not exceed International Commission on non-ionising radiation protection guidelines; or
- for a new mast or base station, evidence that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure and a statement that self-certifies that, when operational, International Commission guidelines will be met.

Given both the potential impact of such infrastructure on the historic environment and the significance of much of Bury town centres built environment, the Council also refers the applicants to the Code of Practice for Mobile Network Development in England developed in partnership between mobile operators, Government and other stakeholders including Historic England.



WILLIAM MORRIS

Legal & Corporate Communications

William Morris
Sheaf Street • Suite 43 • Leeds
Phone 0113 245 9487