

From: Biltcliffe, Andrew
Sent: 07 April 2022 16:13
To: Donophy, Selina
Subject: RE: APP/21/01349 | Erection and siting of fibre exchange telecommunications infrastructure to provide a full fibre (gigabit) to the premises service. | Land at Kenwood Business Park, New Lane, Havant, PO9 2NH

Selina,

I have rationalised the regeneration response and would be happy that the following comments are published.

As a lead officer for strategic infrastructure within the borough I am interested to see this application which would enable the provision of enhanced (Full Fibre asymmetrical gigabit) broadband connectivity and 5G provision in the Havant area.

Having the best available digital connectivity is a crucial element in strategic infrastructure provision in the borough. A recent [independent review of UK local authority Full Fibre to the Premises \(FTTP\) coverage](#) (February 2022 data) shows that Havant Borough is nationally ranked 6th from the bottom for Openreach(BT) connectivity , just above the Shetland Islands, NE Lincolnshire, Orkneys, Isle of Scilly and Oadby and Wigston; all extremely rural areas. The report coincidentally also shows that whilst Havant is poor in terms of the Openreach FTTP connectivity; Havant is good in terms of Virgin Cable connectivity, being in 19th place nationally. However, the virgin cable system is an older system with limitations on download and upload speeds.

The full fibre technology that would become available with the application proposal is the best available technology and therefore what we ought to be aiming for. Our communities and businesses would see significantly improved FTTP connectivity to support them to thrive in the future.

Enhancing digital connectivity is an aim of government policy and whilst the Local Plan has now been withdrawn broadband improvement was featured as a key infrastructure policy.

The principle of installing the Fibre exchange within the borough is therefore something that the Council should be strongly supporting. Once the exchange is installed in an area then the Fibre cabling can be laid to connect homes and businesses to the best available digital services.

Regards

Andrew Biltcliffe

Andrew Biltcliffe MRTPI
Regeneration Project Manager

Note: I normally work Tuesday and Thursday

Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX
Tel: 02392 446511
Mob: 07803428060
Email: andrew.biltcliffe@havant.gov.uk

Havant Borough Council, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant PO9 2AX

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