



**Listed Building Application**

**Installation of fibre optic cabling at The Brunswick Centre (1-187A  
O'DONNELL COURT AND 1-212A FOUNDLING COURT)**

**Design & Access Statement**

**November 2023**

**The Brunswick Centre (1-187A O'DONNELL COURT AND 1-212A FOUNDLING COURT)**

**Installation of fibre optic cabling**

**Design & Access Statement**

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## **Community Fibre**

Community Fibre are the largest supplier of Fibre to The Home (FTTH) services in central London.

Unlike many other Internet Service Providers, who use copper cables to get Internet services into the home, Community Fibre installs a fibre optic cable directly into the subject premises to provide the fastest possible Internet service currently available.

Community Fibre are a relatively young company, which clearly takes time to establish itself, but they have already started network builds in many London Boroughs including Hackney.

Community Fibre can offer an Internet connection with speeds up to 1,000 megabits per second.

Care is always taken with any installation, no matter the circumstances. The environmental issues that will arise, and the impact on the buildings across the estate in this case, are considered to be modest, and these are detailed elsewhere within this statement, and in the accompanying Heritage Statement.

## **Requirement**

Community Fibre have been progressing discussions with Camden Council in relation to the supply of their FTTH services across a number of the housing estates owned by the Council and obtained listed building consent and installed their system at many sites.

These discussions have now progressed to an agreement to extend these services to The Brunswick Centre (1-187A O'DONNELL COURT AND 1-212A FOUNDLING COURT) while residents' groups have also been met by Community Fibre in each case.

This application deals with the installations to 410 premises in The Brunswick Centre (1-187A O'DONNELL COURT AND 1-212A FOUNDLING COURT)

The Community Fibre scheme has the benefit of providing true ultrafast fibre broadband services to all residents of the above buildings and has the added advantage of allowing the removal of unsightly external dishes and other associated equipment, that might currently be in place to service individual users broadband needs.

The fibre-optic cable installed by Community Fibre has a very high capacity and is capable of delivering Internet services, TV signals, radio signals as well as the data required by building management systems such as CCTV, door entry, heating system data, security alarm and tele- health applications.

## **Site Specific Proposals**

In this particular case, the intention is to install fibre optic cabling to the 410 premises in The Brunswick Centre (1-187A O'DONNELL COURT AND 1-212A FOUNDLING COURT) In total, there are 410 premises to be connected under this proposal. Providing service to these units will include the

installation of fibre cables externally of the building anything under 3m will be protected with galvanised conduits.

Community Fibre will also be running their feed and distribution cables internally following the existing routes used by other cables and infrastructure to minimise impact on communal areas.

Associated small fibre cabinets (splitter boxes) will all be installed in discreet locations following existing equipment

## **Policy**

### **Central**

The National Planning Policy Framework details Government guidance on planning for telecommunications development. This confirms the principle policy of the Government to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunication systems, whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

Relevant extracts from the NPPF are as follows:

*42. Advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks also plays a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.*

*43. .... local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband. They should 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.*

### **London Plan**

The London Plan (March 2016) sets out the Mayor's planning strategy for Greater London and contains strategic, thematic and general crosscutting policies and more specific guidance for sub-areas within the Metropolitan Area.

It is considered that the Community Fibre network is an integral element in securing the Mayor's vision for the delivery of modern communications networks across London. More specifically, the proposed development is entirely consistent with, and will help to implement, the strategic objectives contained in Policy 4.11 'Encouraging a Connected Economy' of the Plan. Policy 4.11, and its written justification (notably paragraphs 4.56 & 4.57), is clearly supportive of the proposal and the role that it will perform in allowing Community Fibre to widen communication services access.

The Mayor's Office works with central government and London's local authorities to ensure that strategic communication networks are enabled rather than inhibited by the planning and other regulatory systems (whilst ensuring the utility works themselves are properly managed).

The Community Fibre network is an integral element in securing the Mayor's vision for the delivery of modern communications networks across London. More specifically, the proposed development is entirely consistent with and shall help to implement the strategic objectives contained in the London Plan and London Infrastructure Plan.

It is our view that this particular scheme falls squarely in line with the above guidance and policy.

## **Local**

Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires planning applications and appeals to be determined having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan and other material considerations, and section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires applications and appeals to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

In this case, all cabling will be completed internally, carefully located and finished to respect the status of the affected buildings, which should ensure that all buildings are conserved, while the design and overall planned deployment is sensitive, and should have no discernible impact on the buildings.

## **General Impact Issues**

### **Visual**

As the net effect of the works proposed will be a minor change to the existing buildings and their appearance, our firm belief is that the impact on visual appearance and amenity, both in terms of the buildings themselves and the wider environment will be minimal. As the vast majority of infrastructure is to be installed internally or within existing ducting we do not anticipate that the impression and position in the local environment will be materially different.

### **Impact on Building**

We are conscious that the scheme includes the installation of cabling on, and equipment within, buildings that are listed. These works are required to provide true ultrafast fibre broadband services to all occupants within the estate.

The cabling itself is not considered to be intrusive or distracting and has been planned where best possible to follow the pre-existing cabling while being enclosed within trunking to help minimise the impact on the communal areas. New cabling/trunking will be painted to match with the existing wall colours. All newly drilled holes where required to run cabling will be completed to a high specification and inspected post installation by an independent fire and safety company to ensure these meet government specifications. Existing routes have been planned to be used to minimise the number of new holes as much as possible.

Therefore, we believe that there will be a minimised material impact on either the important architectural or historic elements of the buildings.

Further information can be found in the accompanying Heritage Statement.

## **Design & Access Design Component**

- Use proposed – Installation of fibre optic broadband cabling, to provide true ultrafast broadband connectivity
- Amount – Distribution fibre and drop cabling and related fibre cabinets as per drawings and complementary photomontage pack. The extent of the works has been driven by the need

to ensure the widest possible availability to all occupants, and to comply with health and safety requirements.

- Layout – As per drawings and associated photomontage pack.
- Scale - Distribution fibre and drop cabling and related fibre cabinets as per drawings and complementary photomontage pack
- Landscaping - None considered to be necessary. However, we are happy to consider any proposals that the Council may wish to put forward.
- Appearance - Distribution fibre and drop cabling and related fibre cabinets as per drawings and complementary photomontage pack. The extent of the works has been driven by the need to ensure the widest possible availability to all occupants, and to comply with health and safety requirements.

### **Access**

Access to the works is by definition limited to Community Fibre and their authorised agents. The works will not impede any current or future access to the site, buildings or individual homes.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, the proposed fiber optic installation at the listed Brunswick Centre prioritizes the integration of modern utilities while preserving the historical significance of these Grade II buildings. The approach emphasizes minimal physical alterations and respects the architectural integrity of the site, ensuring a positive technological enhancement for the community while safeguarding its heritage.