

16th September 2020

Manchester City Council
City Centre Team – DM
P.O. Box 532
Town Hall
Manchester M60 2LA
F.A.O. Christopher Smith
Dear Chris,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements)
(England) Regulations 2007

Re: The Replacement of 26 Payphone Kiosks with a Network of 17 Communication Hubs in Manchester City Centre

Further to your recent emails relating to comments from TfGM and GMP (DfS Team) I would respond as follows:

Distance of Units from Metrolink Line

As you mentioned, we did expect some comment on the proximity of the units at Sites A and B to the tram line and have tried to ensure these two were shown at a reasonable distance. We can reposition Site B - Cross Street further away from the tram line as the pavement width would allow for this without causing a restriction. At 2m or 2.5m we would be able to address TfGM's concern and have an unencumbered pavement width of over 4m. We shall amend the site plan and revised images to amend this application and ensure the revised position aligns with the established furniture line. You are correct about Site A – Corporation Street, where there isn't so generous a pavement width. Even at the minimum of 2m offset the unit would be, more or less, in the centre of the footpath. We wouldn't rotate the unit to be parallel to the road, so I think the best option would be to find an alternative to Site A. Please find attached details of three alternative locations we believe would be appropriate replacements. Let me know which one the Council would be prepared to support, and I will substitute it for Site A. I understand you will need to re-consult on the revised location, but hopefully that can be expedited and determined with the other 16 sites.

GMP

It's very encouraging that GMP raise no in principle objection to the proposals and that the proposed security measures and our commitment to cooperative working is supported. Of the three points raised I would respond;

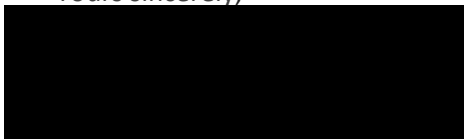
1. Unit location has been considered during the pre-app and site tour and we are confident that we have allowed for sufficiently distanced from other furniture so as not to cause clutter or obstruct free movement.
2. We operate a 24/7/365 digital support desk which, if instructed by a pre-agreed named contact, can shut down 1 of more digital assets, or features within a digital asset e.g. Wi-Fi, small cells, etc distributed across any environment, be that city centre or transport hub. Examples of where this feature would be implemented include: terrorist incidents where public safety may be at risk by the continued provision of metro Wi-Fi when police or security services have deliberately disabled normal cell phone services.
3. The Hub unit and foundations is designed to Eurocode and CE standards, which means they provide a high level of resistance to impact and vandalism. As you know, the Company has a long history of designing and installing street furniture throughout the World that is able to withstand the effects of time, climate and wanton abuse. GMP and the Council can be assured that we will maintain the Hub units to the highest standards.

Glazing panels vary between laminated and tempered glass dependent on location and function. Glazed sections such as the canopy glass and side sections comprise tempered non-laminated glass to prevent potential shards of glass forming if broken. Laminated glass is used on a digital screen, which is thick enough to withstand the force of a bullet. As mentioned in the application letter

"The unit has undergone rigorous testing in extreme conditions and can boast 13.5mm thick antivandal toughened safety laminated glass on all glazed surfaces. The other external elements have been treated with a nanotech surface treatment to enable easy removal of stickers and/or sprayed paint to the external surfaces. The unit has a protection rating against impact of >IK10. All electrical circuitry is inaccessible to the public and the unit features hidden fixings that require specialist tools to enable access."

I hope the above covers everything, but please let know if there is anything else on which you need more information.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Stephens BA(Hons) Dip TP MRTPI
Director of Planning

