



North Yorkshire
County Council

North Yorkshire 4G Infill Programme Consultation: Request for Information

North Yorkshire County Council



Introduction

North Yorkshire County Council ('NYCC') have been working to develop a Programme of work to improve mobile coverage within the county. The programme seeks to develop an initial approach which can facilitate the deployment of 4G LTE infill coverage where this does not yet exist, and where it is unlikely that industry will invest in the near to medium term future, given the economic challenges of doing so. The programme also seeks to ensure that any infrastructure delivered will support the 5G world through being capable of upgrade.

Purpose of this Consultation

This public consultation seeks to define the proposed intervention locations in the first phase of this programme. To enable this, a series of initial locations have been identified (building upon information currently available to NYCC). NYCC wish to test these proposed locations and their applicability for the programme.

Delivering mobile services in rural areas brings significant technical and commercial challenges. This phase of the programme aims to test the market's appetite to deliver 4G mobile infrastructure and services in rural areas of North Yorkshire through Government provision of capital subsidy. It is the first stage of a more comprehensive programme covering the county, which will be developed by the NYCC – with the input of industry – over the next 18 months. One of the main reasons preventing the procurement such a more comprehensive programme from the outset is the uncertainty of the extent of commercial 4G rollout. As part of the overall programme, NYCC will continue to work with industry and the regulator to identify and verify 4G mobile “not spots” and consider how these could potentially be addressed through this or future phases of activity.

An additional purpose for this consultation is to meet the requirements of State aid rules in relation to the deployment of broadband networks. For these purposes, 4G LTE is classified as an NGA broadband service.

European Union State Aid rules are designed to ensure that any use of public funding ('State Aid') is targeted at areas of market failure and produces positive market outcomes while minimising any distortion to competition. The State Aid rules require public interventions to be targeted so as to limit the risk of crowding-out or disincentives existing and/or concrete planned private sector investments that would otherwise meet the desired policy objectives. In the context of broadband, the General Block Exemption Regulations permits the use of public funding only to extend broadband coverage in geographic areas where there is no provision of basic broadband or NGA broadband service or network and it is unlikely to be developed in the near future (within the next three years).

The 'EU Guidelines for the application of State aid rules in relation to the rapid deployment of broadband networks' (2013/C 25/01) can be found at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:025:0001:0026:en:PDF>. The objective of this intervention is to provide access to mobile NGA infrastructure which is capable of delivering 4G LTE services.

In accordance with this requirement, NYCC is holding a public consultation; we are publishing a public consultation document on the [NYCC Website here](#) and we will publish the results within 20 days of the consultation period ending.

Approach

To ensure the success of the programme, engagement and consultation will help make our overall strategy and performance more effective. We will do this by consulting about our intentions and others' views. We will gather feedback and analyse the results of the consultation, report on the results, and use this to inform our planning and priority setting.

1. Principles

The following principles will underpin all engagement activity. Engagement activity will:

- be **proportionate** both for the group being consulted and to the purpose of the engagement
- be **open, transparent and focused**, being clear how their views will be used and what they may influence
- be **consistent and joined up** ensuring no group has undue influence or access, but that engagement is tailored to the commitments and interests of the audience
- **support and promote improvement** by sharing findings with key stakeholders e.g. partners, colleagues and wider Government departments
- be **accountable and cost effective**, using the necessary resources and time to make a difference, and properly evaluate findings

2. Levels of engagement

We will engage with interested parties at the appropriate level, in appropriate ways and at appropriate times. The ways we engage with users, stakeholders and interested parties will depend on what we are trying to achieve. Engagement will operate at a number of levels:

- **information** – providing information about the service (including information about how to engage with services locally) and future changes to the way the service operates
- **consultation** – seeking opinions about areas of our work and about the services we provide
- **involvement** – engaging customers and corporate partners in becoming part of the solution by listening to their views and supporting them to bring about improvement

In all of our engagement with users, stakeholders and interested parties, we will be clear about what we want to achieve and ensure that the means of engagement is designed to achieve that objective. We will tailor our engagement activities and use appropriate methods, and will be mindful of the context from the external perspective. Annex A seeks to outline the likely levels and basis of engagement in relation to the programme.

Progress to Date

NYCC recognise there will be gaps in 4G mobile coverage and the need to fill these coverage gaps. NYCC stated their intention to develop a programme to work with industry and eliminate these coverage gaps

4G infill is looking to provide additional mast (and associated) infrastructure and services to underserved locations. The target areas in which we are looking, needs to provide infrastructure to enable mobile operators to deliver a commercial service.

The programme will look to ensure that any infrastructure is open access, future ready and with backhaul capable of delivering 4G LTE services and upgradable to 5G. It will also look to deliver at least one committed mobile service provider in each location.

We are keen to hear from those who may be able to support the provision of this network infrastructure in the target areas. This could be through ownership of specific telecommunications infrastructure or have plans to build such infrastructure.

Initial Funding has been provided by NYERLEP. The details and basis of these funding sources and any restrictions on their usage will be explained in the forthcoming tender documentation.

Our current understanding of the programme, considers activity across North Yorkshire. Annex B provides a brief overview of these locations.

Your Response

This consultation will run for four weeks, from 21 August to 19 September 2018.

We are sending this consultation to all recognised mobile infrastructure and service providers in our area. In addition, we are publishing this consultation document on our website.

You can respond by completing the online form at <https://consult.northyorks.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=153242608379>

Please note that the data you provide in your response will be treated as commercially confidential to NYCC, albeit that it may be necessary to share/some all of your response data with our professional advisors and/or BDUK, Ofcom, BIS State Aid Branch and the European Commission in the course of seeking State aid approval for our project.

Any indirectly collected personal information, such as name and address, will be held in line with our published privacy notice which can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/privacy-notices> We collect this information so we can (contact you for further information?) and we will hold this information for (the duration of the consultation) at which point (all information will be anonymised). Your personal information will (not be shared with any third parties). The legal basis we are collecting this information under is consent.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact nycc4Ginfill@northyorks.gov.uk

You can request this information in another language or format here. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/website-accessibility>

Annex A

Engagement Plan Group	Engagement Method	Communication Method	When	Frequency
Providers of mobile infrastructure services	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Verbal messages • SMS • E-mail • Customer survey 	Within the consultation period	Throughout consultation period
Other interested parties	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Verbal messages • SMS • E-mail • Customer survey 	Within the consultation period	Throughout consultation period
Strategic partners, Delivery partners	Inform	• Dictated according to preference and proportionate to the significance of the issue.	Within the consultation period	As appropriate Throughout consultation period

Annex B

Maps

Details of the areas we are looking to cover are as follows: