Shared Rural Network – Explanatory Note

What is the Shared Rural Network?

The Shared Rural Network (SRN) is a collaboration between MNOs and Government to improve 4G coverage for people living, working and travelling in poorly served rural areas.

The network will ensure geographic coverage from at least one operator to 95% of the UK by the end of 2025, broadening consumer choice for mobile services in rural areas.

Across the UK, there will be a significant increase in the areas where all four operators deliver coverage, from 66% in 2020 to 84% by the end of 2025.

MNOs are collectively investing £532 million to extend their coverage by upgrading their existing networks, working together on shared infrastructure and building new sites. Government is investing a further £500 million to build new masts in areas with no 4G coverage from any operator.

Cornerstone are delivering the Shared Rural Network on behalf of the MNOs and will be submitting applications to your Council Planning Department imminently

Shared infrastructure – planning policy compliant – improved service while minimising environmental impact via reduced proliferation and minimised site numbers

What are the benefits of the Shared Rural Network?

The SRN will deliver reliable 4G mobile connectivity allowing rural business to prosper and rural communities to thrive…

- The new infrastructure is guaranteed to bring mobile coverage and economic benefits to areas of the UK currently missing out. Even more significant with post-Covid economic recovery
- Promote inward investment, creating jobs to assist in retaining skilled young people in rural areas
- The SRN will address the urban rural digital divide, delivering improved digital infrastructure to the areas that need it most.
- Social benefits in facilitating track and trace, contact with isolated or vulnerable friends/family, assist in access to learning materials and remote learning – necessity and dependence demonstrated by pandemic
- Better connectivity has real, tangible benefits for people and businesses, such as booking GP appointments online, using apps to communicate with friends and family, boosting tourism and agriculture, access to emergency services etc
- 4G can provide a means to connect to superfast broadband where fibre broadband is not yet available

Shared Rural Network will help deliver the economic and digital aspirations of Government and Local Authorities…

- Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review
- Mobile Action Plans for Scotland and Wales
- National Infrastructure Commission for Wales
- Scottish Govt Digital Strategy
- Local Council Economic Strategy

Cornerstone, Hive 2
1530 Arlington Business Park
Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA

Registered Address:
Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited, Hive 2, 1530 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire, RG7 4SA.
Registered in England & Wales No. 08087551.
VAT No. GB142 8555 06

Classification: Unrestricted