

## NORTH EAST ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND PROGRAMME CONSULTATION PLAN

### Introduction

1. The Department for Transport (DfT) has allocated £9.049m to the North East region for Active Travel Fund (ATF) schemes. Transport North East (TNE) has worked with the seven local highway authorities in our region to prepare a programme of schemes that will be delivered using this funding. The programme is provisional, pending formal approval by the Joint Transport Committee in January 2021, and is set out in Table 1.

**Table 1**

North East Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 – Programme of Schemes

Scheme	Promoter	ATF Allocation	Total Scheme Cost
Great North Cycleway	Durham	£650,000	£650,000
Gateshead Town Centre Walking and Cycling Improvements	Gateshead	£451,000	£451,000
Grey Street	Newcastle	£2,500,000	£4,000,000
RVI Active Travel Access Improvements	Newcastle	£1,300,000	£2,300,000
Three Strategic Corridors Package	North Tyneside	£1,575,000	£1,575,000
A183 Whitburn Road Cycleway	Sunderland	£1,125,000	£1,250,000
Waterloo Road/Renwick Road Cycle Improvements, Blyth	Northumberland	£336,000	£336,000
Four Active Travel Corridors Package	South Tyneside	£540,000	£600,000
Regional Public Opinion Survey	TNE	£40,000	£40,000
Retained Funding <sup>1</sup>	TNE	£532,000	£532,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£9,049,000</b>	<b>£11,202,000</b>

2. In our Tranche 2 bid submission to DfT we set out our commitment to full and open consultation on all of our Active Travel Fund schemes:

*“The North East local authorities that will deliver our programme of cycling and walking road space reallocation schemes have already undertaken a significant level of stakeholder and community engagement, as befits an ambitious programme proposed by the region. In several cases the schemes in our programme benefit from the positive (and negative) responses that have been received during implementation of Tranche 1 schemes...*

*“...in summary, the importance of stakeholder and community engagement is always paramount in our thinking when developing and designing major capital transport investments in the North East, and such inclusive engagement is especially crucial for this programme of Active Travel works given the scale of ambition being proposed. We will work sensitively and inclusively with*

<sup>1</sup> This funding will be retained until public consultations have been completed, at which point any returned funding will be added to this sum and distributed to further schemes across the region that meet requirements of the Fund.

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*all stakeholders to develop schemes that meet local approval and deliver on national as well as regional strategies for cycling and walking.”*

3. This consultation plan sets out how Transport North East and scheme promoters will work together to deliver that commitment for full and inclusive consultation.

## **Attitudes to Active Travel Measures – Existing Evidence**

4. Local authorities in the North East have already invested in high quality active travel infrastructure corridors for many years. These investments have allowed the region to learn many lessons – positive and negative – and gather information about the public’s attitudes to these schemes in the North East.
5. Based on a 2019 survey of 1,298 Gateshead, Newcastle, and North Tyneside residents aged 16 or over, 72% of participants felt that more cycle tracks alongside roads physically segregated from traffic and pedestrians would encourage them to cycle more (Bike Life Gateshead Newcastle, and North Tyneside, March 2020). Some 62% supported this even if it meant less space for other road traffic. In addition, 72% supported increased space for cyclists and pedestrians on high streets, while 57% thought streets outside schools should be closed to cars during drop off and pick up times. And 86% felt that cycle routes and safety needed to be improved. This is supported by a Street Space survey of 522 County Durham residents in the summer of 2020, with 68% feeling the amount of street space available to walk and cycle safely needed to be improved.
6. These findings are reinforced by the outcome of recent engagement with the Nexus Insight Panel on a number of issues related to Active Travel in the North East, which revealed that:
  - 45% of participants expect to walk more post-Covid-19 and 17% expect to cycle more;
  - 63% somewhat or strongly support converting some road space into cycle paths;
  - 70% somewhat or strongly support converting some road space into footpaths; and
  - When considering barrier to cycling, 60% agreed that traffic was a barrier and 41% agreed that a lack of dedicated cycle lanes was a barrier.
7. It is therefore clear that a majority of North East residents when surveyed supported the provision of more segregated Active travel facilities. However we wish to go further and gather more evidence of this support.

## **Attitudes to Active Travel Measures – A New Regional Survey**

8. TNE will work our local authority and active travel partners in the region to develop a fully updated picture on the public’s attitude to investing in Active Travel corridors. We will devise a questionnaire that explores attitudes to Active Travel infrastructure in general, then drills down to reveal attitudes about the kind of segregated measures we are proposing that comply with the Government’s LTN 1/20 Design Guide. This consultation will not look at specific schemes in our programme, but will explore attitudes to types of intervention.
9. The survey will be conducted by a market research company who will ensure that a fully representative sample of people is consulted, capturing age, gender and ethnicity. We will also ensure that current travel modes of respondents are recorded, so that we can determine the attitudes of current cyclists, car users, bus users, etc. A further survey, using the same

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questionnaire, will be conducted by the Nexus Insight Panel<sup>2</sup> in order to supplement the market research company's work, further deepening the reliability of our survey.

10. Where appropriate and where the latest guidance on Active Travel schemes permit it, the results of this survey will provide pointers for the development of individual schemes. In some cases, details of individual scheme may be modified as a result of this regional survey.

## Stakeholder Consultations – Capturing the Views of Key Road Users

11. TNE will use existing channels of communication to engage with key road users through a series of structured consultation interviews. The road users to be contacted include cycling and walking groups, bus operators, road haulage trade bodies and the taxi trade. These interviews will explain our programme and discuss the design principles encapsulated in our assurance process, namely:
  - Compliance with LTN 1/20;
  - Ensuring that public bus services are not impacted; and
  - Minimising impact on other road traffic.
12. The findings of these discussions will be shared with the local authorities delivering their Active Travel schemes, who may wish to explore certain issues further in their scheme-specific consultations.

## Scheme Consultations – Ensuring Local Support

13. Building on these regional attitudinal surveys, each scheme promoter will conduct a scheme-specific consultation on their Active Travel Fund proposals, then consider suitable amendments to schemes that are supported by the balance of local opinion. Each scheme promoter has prepared a consultation plan as set out in Annex 1, which are tailored to the particular proposals in each scheme. However each plan complies with the guidance provided by DfT in the Grant Award Letter for the Active Travel Fund in terms of:
  - Identifying when consultations will take place;
  - Identifying who will be consulted;
  - Setting out the methods for conducting consultation, taking into account any ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and the need for social distancing; and
  - Setting out how different stakeholder groups will be engaged to ensure an effective consultation is conducted.
14. The outcomes of these consultations will be fed into the detailed design process for each scheme to ensure the balance of public views is taken into account ahead of delivering each scheme on the ground.

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<sup>2</sup> This panel is an online community of approximately 750 residents across all seven local authority areas in the region, though is mostly comprised of residents of Tyne and Wear. Anyone resident in the North East aged 18 or over is eligible to join the panel. Demographic information is recorded at recruitment including age, gender and frequency of transport use which allows subsequent survey results to be cross-tabulated with this information. Surveys are sent to panel members on the last Wednesday of every month and a typical response volume of 400 is typically received.

## ANNEX 1 SCHEME SPECIFIC CONSULTATION PLANS

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – Durham Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p><b>November – December:</b> early consultation measures</p> <p><b>February:</b> Public Consultation</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p><b>November:</b> Early consultation with DCC's Climate Champions</p> <p><b>December:</b> Early consultation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local members (including DCC's Climate and Cycling Champions) and MP</li> <li>• Key stakeholders including Greater Aycliffe Town Council and Durham Constabulary).</li> </ul> <p><b>February:</b> local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), contact lists which includes: Great Aycliffe Town Council, emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, Area Action Partnership, local MPs and ward councillors</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p><b>Public Consultation throughout February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme) to be informed by letter</li> <li>• contact list to be informed by email to include Great Aycliffe Town Council, emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, Area Action Partnership, local MPs and ward councillors</li> <li>• Webpage set up on DCC website and email link to stakeholders</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Measures to support consultation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="mailto:activetravel@durham.gov.uk">activetravel@durham.gov.uk</a> email address and telephone number made available for calls for people who cannot access online consultation</li> </ul> <p><b>Scheme Specific Surveys with local residents:</b></p> <p>In addition to summer 2020 countywide consultation, scheme specific consultation will be carried out. These will be delivered by Living Streets.</p>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – Gateshead Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>The scheme was implemented on a temporary basis in July 2020 under Tranche 1 of the Emergency Active Travel Fund.</p> <p>Prior to implementation the scheme was the subject of consultation with key interests. Wider consultation (under an Experimental Order) commenced in August and the trial period will run through to February.</p> <p>Feedback from this process has already led to the adjustment of the scheme on the ground.</p> <p>As the scheme is related to works necessary to implement the Clean Air Zone any further consultation will need to be considered alongside those timescales. (currently likely to be February – March next year)</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>Advance consultation was carried out with a variety of bodies, including Nexus, Bus Operators, Sustrans, Cycling England, Living Streets and the emergency services. There was also a letter drop of residents in the immediate vicinity and conversations with the local town centre manager and the main local business affected.</p> <p>Wider public consultation is underway via the Council website and twitter drop ins and online Q and A sessions have taken place. Ongoing consultation with ward members.</p> <p>Further consultation will include local MPs, ward members, emergency services, bus operators, Sustrans, Cycling England and Living Streets, interested business and residents as part of our town centre stakeholder forum as well as more general public consultation.</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>The consultation is likely to be largely online to comply with current social distancing guidance and because we have found that an excellent way of reaching the wider population. Surveys will focus on different elements.</p> <p>A variety of methods has/will be used to engage relevant interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted consultation will be via an initial e-mail with the offer of a follow up meeting;</li> <li>- More general consultation will be focused on the Council's website, albeit in practice other communication channels (e-mail, phone, Twitter drop ins etc.) will complement this;</li> <li>- Use of forums for bespoke Q&amp;A sessions as well as enabling continuing discussion/comment.</li> <li>- Individual discussions</li> </ul>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – Newcastle Grey Street Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>Spring 2021</p> <p>There will be two elements to the consultation process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stakeholder and public engagement in relation to the scheme itself and the design</li> <li>2) Statutory Consultation in relation to necessary Traffic Regulation Orders that will be required to deliver the scheme</li> </ol>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Transport and Air Quality          Local Ward Members          Newcastle Transport Forum (comprising a range of specific transport interest groups, such as Newcastle Disability Forum)          NE1 – Newcastle Business Improvement Company          Residents and Businesses in the vicinity of the scheme          Publicity will help to ensure visitors and businesses in the City Centre more widely will be aware of proposals and have the chance to comment          All Statutory Consultees as per TRO requirements (including bus operators and emergency services).          As per ATF requirements both the Royal Mail and the relevant MP will be made aware of the proposals and have the chance to provide comment.</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>There will be a range of activities that take place as part of the public engagement which will include leaflet drops, press releases, direct engagement with businesses and residents in the vicinity seeking feedback to be provided to a dedicated email address as well as via the post. Ongoing discussion with NE1 and bus operators is already taking place in relation to the scheme</p> <p>Statutory Consultation for the necessary Legal Orders will also be undertaken in line with legal requirements.</p>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – Newcastle RVI Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>Spring 2021</p> <p>There will be two elements to the consultation process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stakeholder and public engagement in relation to the scheme itself and the design</li> <li>2) Statutory Consultation in relation to necessary Traffic Regulation Orders that will be required to deliver the scheme</li> </ol>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust          Newcastle University          Cabinet Member for Transport and Air Quality          Local Ward Members          Newcastle Transport Forum (comprising a range of specific transport interest groups, such as Newcastle Disability Forum)          Residents and Businesses in the vicinity of the scheme          Publicity will help to ensure visitors and businesses in the City Centre more widely will be aware of proposals and have the chance to comment          All Statutory Consultees as per TRO requirements (including bus operators and emergency services).          As per ATF requirements both the Royal Mail and the relevant MP will be made aware of the proposals and have the chance to provide comment.</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>A Commonplace web page will be developed for the scheme. This will provide a range of information on the project and will enable design feedback from stakeholders and the public to be provided, including a survey. An example from another scheme is - <a href="https://safenewcastlebridges.commonplace.is/">https://safenewcastlebridges.commonplace.is/</a></p> <p>Supporting this, there will be a range of activities that take place alongside the Commonplace site which will include leaflet drops, press releases, direct engagement with businesses and residents in the vicinity. Ongoing discussion with both Newcastle University and the NHS Trust is taking place.</p> <p>Statutory Consultation for the necessary Legal Orders will also be undertaken in line with legal requirements.</p>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – North Tyneside Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>The consultation process is to take place in Q4 of 2020/21. Consultation with statutory undertakers on some elements of the schemes has already commenced in advance of the formal noticing process. It is currently anticipated that the consultation process will relate to all elements of the scheme.</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p><b>Targeted engagement</b></p> <p>Targeted stakeholder engagement is to take place with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ emergency services</li> <li>▪ bus operators</li> <li>▪ highway maintenance and cleansing teams</li> <li>▪ other representative groups, e.g. cycling and walking user groups; groups representing vulnerable road users and/or people with disabilities</li> <li>▪ stakeholders whose operations are impacted by the scheme</li> <li>▪ local MPs and ward members</li> </ul>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p><b>Statutory consultation</b></p> <p>Statutory consultation/publication of notices is to take place on elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ reductions in speed limits</li> <li>▪ construction of new crossings / upgrading of existing crossings</li> </ul> <p><b>Wider consultation</b></p> <p>Wider consultation will take place, with the proposals being published on the Authority’s website and use of news releases and the Authority’s social media feeds as appropriate.</p> <p>There is potential to use an online consultation tool to allow residents and businesses to link their comments to specific locations within the proposals.</p>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund Waterloo Road/Renwick Road Cycle Improvements, Blyth Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>There will be a single consultation process to cover the scheme in its entirety.</p> <p>Consultation is planned to take place for in February 2021.</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>The consultation will take place online using the council's bespoke consultation portal 'Citizen Space' and will be advertised extensively through local press and the council's social media channels.</p> <p>Direct contact will also be made with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northumberland County Council Ward Councillors within Blyth</li><li>• Blyth Town Council</li><li>• Ian Levy MP, Blyth Valley</li><li>• Arriva as the local bus operator</li><li>• Royal Mail</li><li>• Local residents and businesses within the immediate vicinity of the scheme through a direct mailshot.</li><li>• Emergency services</li></ul>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>Given the relatively small scale of the project, one survey will cover the whole scheme.</p> <p>The Citizen Space portal will be the single source of consultation material. However, hard copies and other formats will be available for those unable to access online.</p>

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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – South Tyneside Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>Consultations have already been undertaken as part of the draft Cycling and Walking Investment Plan for the Council. With South Tyneside undertaking significant community consultation using roadshow events and the use of the Commonplace consultation tool.</p> <p>South Tyneside is proposing to adopt a similar consultation exercise for each scheme identified in Tranche 2 for the Emergency Active Travel Fund, with the common place tool able to seek individual responses from all road users regarding the proposals.</p> <p>These comments will be fed into the design process ensuring that the Council has captured the views / opinions of all road users.</p> <p>The same consultation exercises were adopted for our Emergency Active Travel Fund – Tranche 1 schemes, so this maintains consistency.</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>The specific consultation exercise per individual scheme will be tailored to those road users / local residents who will be impacted by the scheme proposals.</p> <p>Further to this, the Council will engage with its statutory consultees and will include the respective ward members and Local MP's in terms of the design proposals.</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>Use of Common Place web-based consultation tool for each scheme, so that road users and members of the public can define and influence the proposals.</p> <p>Local residents directly impacted by the scheme promoters will receive correspondence regarding the scheme and methods in which they can raise comments regarding the proposals.</p> <p>Further to this, if the schemes require any amendments to TRO's, then this will be legally advertised in the local press and with information listed out on the road network in which the scheme is being proposed.</p>

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	<p>South Tyneside Council considers this to be a robust consultation plan that will allow the local residents and road users to influence our draft proposals for Tranche 2.</p>
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## Emergency Active Travel Fund – Sunderland Consultation Plan

<p><b>When will your consultation process take place?</b></p> <p><i>(Will there be multiple consultations for different elements of the scheme?)</i></p>	<p>Consultation will commence in December 2020 and run for approximately 6 weeks through into January to give Residents, Businesses, Ward Members and Key Stakeholders time to consider and comment on the proposals.</p> <p>The consultation will comprise of two parts: -</p> <p>Part 1 – Local MP, Ward Members and Key Stakeholders.</p> <p>Part 2 – Local Residents &amp; Businesses (commencing approx. one week after Part 1).</p>
<p><b>Who will be consulted?</b></p> <p><i>(Including: local residents, local businesses (where they are directly impacted by the scheme), emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors)</i></p>	<p>Sunderland City Council will engage and consult with:</p> <p>Local MP &amp; Ward Councillors</p> <p>Key Partners, comprising Sunderland City Councils Statutory Consultee list including emergency services, bus operators, cycle groups and disability groups etc (list of SCC Statutory Consultee list attached)</p> <p>All Residents &amp; Businesses who front onto the scheme or are directly affected by the proposals.</p> <p>It should be noted that an early engagement exercise already undertaken with Residents, Businesses and Ward Councillors on a first derivation of the scheme, received positive support. Any issues identified have been taken on board and addressed within the latest proposals.</p>
<p><b>How will the consultation take place?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. One survey that considers the whole scheme or multiple surveys for different elements?)</i></p> <p><b>How will each stakeholder be engaged with?</b></p> <p><i>(e.g. Different methods for different stakeholders?)</i></p>	<p>Part 1 - Local MP, Ward Members &amp; Key Stakeholders will be contacted and sent electronic copies of the relevant documents including an explanatory letter, feedback forms and general arrangement scheme drawings. Hard copy of the documents are available upon request.</p> <p>Part 2 – Residents &amp; Businesses will receive a hand delivered copy of all relevant documents. .</p> <p>Details of the scheme proposals will also be available on a dedicated web link within the Sunderland city council web site. (Web link to be confirmed).</p> <p>All consultees will have the opportunity to return their views on the proposals, provide any comments or raise any concerns via, e-mail or post. Officers will also be contactable via telephone should a more accessible contact be required.</p>