

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 6 June 2016

Report Title: Mobile Phone Installations on Council Owned Land

Report By: Peter Grace
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Purpose of Report

The report seeks to amend the Council's policy on new mobile phone installations on Council land.

Recommendation(s)

The Council's existing policy 'this Council as landowner determines to ban new mobile phone installations on its own land until more research findings are available confirming that there are no associated health risks' be lifted.

Reasons for Recommendations

Since the policy was adopted there has been no proven risk to the health of people living near mobile phone installations.

Background

1. Following problems and controversy over a proposed site at Croft Road, adjacent to the School, the Council resolved on 21 February 2001 that:

“this Council as landowner determines to ban new mobile phone installations on its own land until more research findings are available confirming that there are no associated health risks”.
2. This policy has been followed since 2001 with no exemptions.

Existing Installations on Council Owned Land

3. The Council has two installations on its land that were in place prior to the moratorium. There have been no issues with these and the Council has consented to changes to the installations on Council owned land in order to facilitate the user’s upgrade requirements.
4. These generate an annual revenue for the Council in the region of £19,000 per annum.

Planning

5. The recently adopted Development Management Plan says the following about telecommunications technology:

Modern telecommunications systems have grown rapidly in recent years with more than two thirds of the population now owning a mobile phone. Mobile communications are now considered an integral part of the success of most business operations and individual lifestyles. With new services demand for new telecommunications infrastructure is continuing to grow. We are keen to facilitate this expansion whilst at the same time minimising any environmental impacts. It is our policy to reduce the proliferation of new masts by encouraging mast sharing and siting equipment on existing tall structures and buildings.

Policy DM2 – Telecommunications Technology

In accordance with Government advice, if a proposed installation meets the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure then it will not be necessary to consider further health aspects and concerns.

Prior approval for the siting and appearance of antennae will be given and full planning permission granted for telecommunications installations provided that the following criteria are met:

- a. the siting and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures should seek to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area in accordance with Policy DM1, above, and where appropriate HN1;
- b. if on a building, apparatus and associated structures should be sited and designed in order to seek to minimise impact to the external appearance of the host building;

- c. if proposing a new mast, it should be demonstrated that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting apparatus on existing buildings, masts or other structures. Such evidence should accompany any application made to the Council;
- d. if proposing development in a sensitive area, the development should not have an unacceptable effect on areas of ecological interest, areas of landscape importance, archaeological sites, conservation areas or buildings of architectural or historic significance;
- e. when considering applications for telecommunications development, the Council will have regard to the operational requirements of telecommunications networks and the technical limitations of the technology.

Proposal

- 6. It is proposed that the moratorium on new mobile phone installations on Council owned land be lifted but that any new proposed installation must meet the (ICNIRP) guidelines. This is in line with Government policy and could potentially generate further revenue for the Council.

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

None

Officer to Contact

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