Preface

This document can be provided in large print, audio, electronic and Braille formats. Please contact Spatial Planning 0161 793 3782.

إذا احتجت للمساعدة في فهم هذه النشرة , برجاء الاتصال بفريق المساواة في مجلس سالفورد, هاتف رقم 0161 793 3536

এই পুস্তিকাটি বোঝার জন্য যদি আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে সেলফোর্টে কাউন্সিলের ইকুয়ালিটি টিমের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর 0161 793 3536

如果您有關于本宣傳頁的任何問題，請聯繫 Salford 理事會的 Equalities 團隊，電話號碼爲 0161 793 3536

જો આ લીફલેટ સમઝવા મોટ તમને મદદની જરૂરત હોય, કૃપો કરી ઇક્વાલિટીજ ટીમ સલ્ફોર્ડ કાઉંસિલનોં ટેલિફોન નમ્બર 0161 793 3536 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਲੀਫ਼ਲੈਟ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਲਫ਼ੋਰਡ ਕੌਂਸਲ (Salford council) ਵਿਚ ਇਕੁਐਲਿਟੀ ਟੀਮ (Equalities Team) ਨਾਲ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 0161 793 3536 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو اس لیف لیٹ کے سمجھنے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ کرم اکویلیٹز ٹیم کو سلفورڈ کونسل سے اس ٹیلی فون نمبر 0161 793 3536 پر رابطہ قائم کر سکتے ہیں۔

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1 Introduction

1.1 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) expands on the policies in Salford's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (adopted 21st June 2006) to provide additional guidelines against which applications for telecommunications equipment, such as mobile phone masts, will be assessed.

1.2 The SPD offers guidance for those involved in the planning and design of new telecommunication development and will also serve to inform decision makers and local communities and promote transparency, inclusiveness and consistency for all parties throughout the decision making process. It explains the council's overall approach to telecommunications development, and sets out detailed advice on government policy and the planning framework, the siting and appearance of telecommunications development, and health considerations.

1.3 The SPD supplements the following policies of the UDP:

- DEV1 Telecommunications
- DES1 Respecting Context
- DES5 Tall Buildings
- DES8 Alterations and Extensions
- E3 Knowledge Capital
- EHC5 University of Salford
- EN1 Development Affecting the Greenbelt
- CH1 Works to, and Demolition of, Listed Buildings
- CH2 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building
- CH3 Works Within Conservation Areas
- CH5 Archaeology and Ancient Monuments

1.4 The SPD does not have the same status as the development plan, but, once adopted, will be an important material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

1.5 This document is intended to complement rather than duplicate other planning documents. Details of all of the planning documents that are currently in force within Salford, and a timetable for the production of new documents, are set out in the city council's Local Development Scheme.

1.6 The provisions of this SPD will be implemented primarily through the development control process and the determination of applications for planning permission and prior approval.

2 Process for Producing this Document

Overview

2.1 The SPD has been produced in accordance with the advice contrained in PPS12: Local Development Frameworks, and the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Sustainability Appraisal

2.2 The document has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) at all stages. The SA considers the implications of the SPD from social, economic and environmental perspectives, by assessing the SPD and other reasonable and relevant options against available baseline data and sustainability objectives.

2.3 The SA can be viewed via the city council's website at http://www.salford.gov.uk/telecommunicationsspd

Public Involvement in the Production Process

2.4 A series of meetings, discussions and workshops with stakeholders took place between September 2006 and November 2006, including workshops with representatives from mobile phone operators, agents who frequently submit applications for telecommunication development to Salford City Council and representatives from wi-fi providers. A questionnaire was also distributed to community representatives, and members on the Planning Sub-Group of the Environment, Housing and Planning Scrutiny Committee, and the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel. All of this consultation activity provided a significant amount of information that fed into the production of the consultation draft SPD.

2.5 The formal public consultation on the draft version of the SPD took place between 9th February and 22nd March 2007. The city council has had regard to all of the comments received during the consultation period, and amended the SPD as appropriate.

2.6 A Consultation Statement is available on the council's website [http://www.salford.gov.uk/telecommunicationsspd] which sets out who has been consulted in the preparation of this SPD, how they were consulted, a summary of the main issues raised, and how those issues have been addressed in the final version of the document.

3 Telecommunications Development - Understanding the Issues

3.1 Modern telecommunications play a vital role in the local and national economy and bring significant social benefits. Fast, reliable and cost-effective communications can attract businesses and inward investment to an area thereby providing increased employment opportunities and contributing to wider policy goals. They can also increase choice through providing opportunities for home working, education and entertainment, shopping and banking whilst offering potential benefits for the environment in terms of decreasing vehicle emissions by reducing the need to travel.

3.2 There has been considerable growth in mobile phone use in the UK in recent years with over 46 million people now using mobile phones in the UK. This increase in demand for mobile technology has necessitated a significant number of planning applications relating to telecommunications development.

3.3 In April 2000 the Government awarded licences to five operators to provide a 'Third Generation' (3G) service, which provides for enhanced services for mobile phone users, including higher quality Internet access. The licences are valid until 2021 and require each of the operators to develop a 'Third Generation' network covering 80% of the population by 2007. As Third Generation networks operate on a digital basis, which has a shorter transmission capability than the previous analogue systems (Second Generation – 2G), an increase in the number of base stations is required to attain the necessary level of coverage.

3.4 In addition, the forthcoming digital switchover for television transmissions and the demand for quick, reliable and cost-effective communication systems, such as wi-fi, may result in further applications for telecommunication development.

3.5 The planning system has an important role to play in supporting the development of high quality telecommunication networks by accommodating the needs of new telecommunications development. Nevertheless, it is essential that the infrastructure needed to underpin these systems is delivered sensitively, keeping the impact on the environment to a minimum.

Mobile Phone Masts

3.6 Mobile telecommunication systems operate by sending low-powered radio signals between base stations and mobile phones. The signals are transmitted from the base station antennas, mounted on top of a mast or a building. Specialist radio equipment, housed in a purpose-built cabin or building close to the antennas, is also required with the base station.

3.7 Each of the operators divides the country into thousands of individual cells. Each cell is served by a transmitting and receiving station, known as a 'base station', which allows mobile devices to communicate with the wider telecommunications network.

3.8 Mobile communications are only made possible by the provision of this network of cells, each with a base station at its centre with cells overlapping at the edges to ensure the mobile phone users always remain within range of a base station. Without sufficient base stations in the right locations, mobile phones will not work.

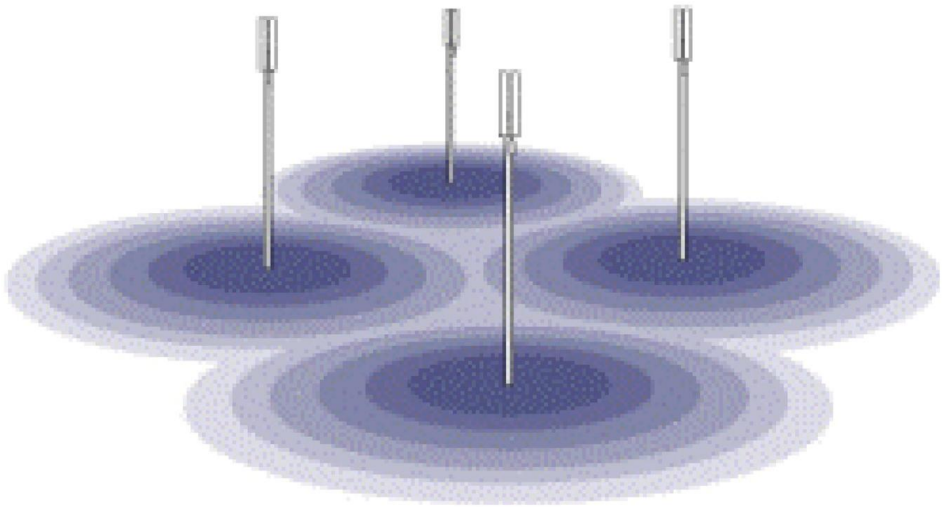

Figure 1: Idealised network coverage showing overlapping cells around individual base stations (Source: Ofcom)

3.9 The area covered by any individual cell is governed by the capacity (volume) of calls made, the height of the antenna above the ground, the local geographical features (radio signals are affected or blocked by trees, hills and buildings), and the frequency band in which the network operates (in general, the higher the radio frequency, the smaller the cell).

3.10 In practice, networks are far more complicated than this. The smallest cells tend to be in urban areas, where there is higher usage demand and more structures and features (e.g. buildings) to limit coverage.

3.11 In localised areas of particularly high demand or poor signal strength, such as railway stations, stadiums, or shopping centres, microcells or picocells may be added to provide additional coverage and capacity. Microcells and picocells require smaller antenna than macrocells, and can often be accommodated with little or no visual impact.

3.12 Five UK operators have secured licences to provide the latest 'third generation' (3G) coverage and enhanced services such as video calls and mobile Internet access. The new 3G mobile radio signals operate at a higher frequency, so individual base stations do not provide as wide a coverage as those of the older 2G networks. The resultant smaller cells used by the 3G network would leave gaps in the radio coverage unless existing 2G sites are upgraded, or additional base stations built, to meet the requirements of the 3G system. Generally a 3G site will not require as much height as a 2G site. However where an operator has an existing 2G site then usually the operator will site its 3G equipment on the same site.

3.13

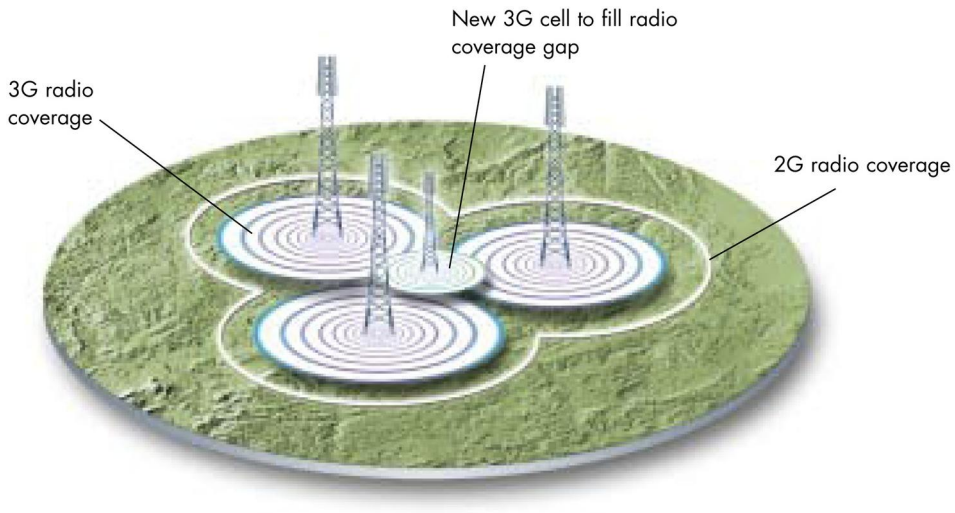

Figure 2: 2G and 3G Cell Sizes (Source: ODPM – Code of Best Practice)

Digital Switchover

3.14 Digital Switchover is a major transformation project that will see the UK switch over to fully digital TV on a region by region basis between 2008 and 2012. Switchover in the Salford area will commence in 2009.

3.15 The switchover will boost the digital TV signal and provide people with a greater choice of affordable digital options. Furthermore, as digital TV is also more efficient, the switchover will free up radio spectrum that could be used for innovative services such as mobile TV or high definition TV.

3.16 A wide range of physical works will be required for the switchover ranging from major alterations and replacement of a small proportion of the large broadcast masts, to minor works which do not materially effect the external appearance of the structure or building as a whole.

3.17 In most cases, the digital switchover will be achieved through the installation of additional or replacement antennas and new radio equipment typically housed in the existing site accommodation. Nevertheless, in a few areas, switchover may necessitate new installations to provide limited coverage to complete localised gaps in the network.

3.18 Television Aerials and Satellite Dishes

3.19 Generally, the installation of a conventional television aerial (including their mountings and poles) is not considered to be development that would require planning consent.

3.20 A general permission exists under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, as amended, for satellite dishes in certain circumstances. These 'permitted development rights' allow satellite dishes to be installed without the need for planning permission subject to a number of restrictions.

3.21 If you are in any doubt as to whether you require planning permission, then you should contact Urban Vision, which provides Salford's development control service on behalf of the council. However, chapter six of this SPD provides a brief overview of when planning permission is usually required to install a satellite dish.

3.22 Even in those circumstances where planning permission is not needed, there is a requirement when installing a satellite dish to position it in such a way that its effect on the outside appearance of the building is reduced as far as possible. It is also necessary to remove satellite dishes when they are no longer needed. Further information on appropriate siting for domestic telecommunications installations can be obtained from the Government good practice guide: *A Householder's Planning Guide - for the Installation of Antennas, including Satellite Dishes.*

Wi-Fi Technology

3.23 Wi-fi, short for wireless fidelity, is the popular term used to refer to a high-frequency wireless local area network. When wi-fi coverage is established, a person with a wi-fi enabled device, such as a laptop or mobile phone, can connect to the Internet when they are in proximity of an access point.

3.24 As with mobile phones and television aerials, wi-fi technology operates by receiving radio signals. A wi-fi enabled device translates data into a radio signal and transmits it to an access point, or base station, that receives the signal and decodes it. The information is then sent to the Internet using a physical, wired Ethernet connection. Consequently, wi-fi technology removes the need for there to be any physical connection between the computer and a telephone point in order to access the Internet. The process also works in reverse, with the base station receiving information from the Internet, translating it into a radio signal and sending it to the computer's wireless adapter.

3.25 The area covered by one or more access points is known as a hotspot. As with mobile phone base stations, local geographical features can adversely affect the signal range of a hotspot (the radio signals are affected or blocked by trees, hills and buildings), and the frequency band in which the network operates (in general, the higher the radio frequency, the smaller the cell).

3.26 Different wi-fi networks provide different kinds of access. For example, a public hotspot could be installed at an airport or coffee shop, which might charge an hourly rate for access. A business or university may establish a wi-fi hotspot to enable on-premises free access for verified employees/students. Alternatively, a home user could set up their own network to which only they had access.

3.27 Fast, reliable and cost-effective communications, such as high quality wi-fi coverage, can help to attract businesses to an area, stimulate investment and help firms remain competitive. By supporting economic competitiveness and business growth, securing a dense wi-fi coverage can, therefore, contribute towards the realisation of other policy goals, such as increasing employment opportunities.

3.28 By allowing people to access the Internet anywhere within range of an access point, wi-fi technology can also lead to potential environmental benefits through reducing the need to travel, and hence decreasing vehicle emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants. In addition, the often more affordable access to the Internet that is offered by wi-fi can contribute to the achievement of other policy goals, such as reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion, by allowing more people to have access to high quality telecommunications.

BT Public Call Boxes

3.29 There are approximately 75,000 public call boxes in the UK; however, due to the increased popularity of mobile phones, the use of call boxes has declined significantly. Consequently, BT estimates that approximately 63% of all call boxes are now unprofitable.

3.30 However, although the number of consumers reliant upon public call boxes as their primary means of making calls is low, they still provide an essential service for those people who do not have access to a landline and cannot, for whatever reason, use a mobile phone. In addition, call boxes can offer reassurance to members of the public by providing a means to contact emergency services in the event of an accident/incident.

3.31 Under the terms of its Universal Service Obligation, BT is required to meet the reasonable needs of users by ensuring that there is an adequate provision of public call boxes in terms of geographical coverage, number and quality.

3.32 BT is also obliged to ensure that at least 70 per cent of their public call boxes offer cash payment facilities. BT has more freedom to use cashless call boxes where boxes have been subject to repeated vandalism. However, cashless phones are required to still allow emergency, freephone and reverse charge calls.

3.33 Although there is a need to maintain good accessibility to public call boxes and retain the existing provision wherever practicable, it is recognised that declining use of these facilities has meant that BT has sought to remove some of the less well used boxes.

3.34 If BT proposes to remove a call box they do not always have to notify the council. If there are two phone boxes within 400 metres' walk of each other, BT can take one away without needing to consult the council. However, BT is required to consult the council when they propose to remove the last phone box within a 400 metre walking distance.

3.35 Where BT does decide to remove the last remaining phone box they must also inform the public by displaying a notice on the call box stating their proposal, the name of the local authority that people can object to (within 42 days) and a freephone number that people can call to find out the location of the next nearest call box

3.36 When determining whether to object to the removal a public call box, the city council will usually have regard to the location and accessibility of the nearest alternative call boxes, the contribution the call box makes to local amenities, and representations from local residents and businesses.

4 Health and Safety Considerations

4.1 Telecommunications installations, such as base stations, emit radio waves or electromagnetic fields (EMFs). Human-made sources of EMFs also include power lines, visual display units, broadcasting transmitters and domestic wiring and appliances (such as lamps, hairdryers and television sets).

4.2 This radiation has been around for many decades, nevertheless, it is recognised that the possibility of health effects associated with telecommunication development, particularly mobile phone installations, is a source of concern for the public.

4.3 In recognition of this concern, the Government set up the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP), chaired by Sir William Stewart, to conduct a rigorous and comprehensive assessment of existing research about health effects from the use of mobile phones, base stations and transmitters. The subsequent report (The Stewart Report) concluded that: "the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations, on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines."

4.4 Following the Stewart Report, Central Government issued a revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG8) on telecommunications. PPG8 sets out very clearly the Government's view on public health concerns about telecommunications development, and the approach that Local Planning Authorities should take in this respect.

4.5 In PPG8, the Government acknowledges that health considerations can, in principle, be material planning considerations when determining applications for planning permission or prior approval. Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the courts. It is for the decision-maker (usually the Local Planning Authority) to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case.

4.6 However, PPG8 states that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. In the Government's view, if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for the Local Planning Authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider health aspects and concerns further.

4.7 Policy DEV1 of the city council's UDP requires all operators to certify with their applications that, when operational, the proposed apparatus will, in itself and cumulatively, operate within the ICNIRP guidelines. Where a mobile phone base station is added to an existing mast or site, the council will require the operator to confirm that the cumulative exposure will not exceed the ICNIRP guidelines.

4.8 The city council considers that the submission of the aforementioned information will be sufficient to demonstrate that a proposed development would not have an unacceptable impact on people's health.

5 Policy Context and SPD Objectives

POLICY CONTEXT

National Policy

5.1 Government policy in respect of telecommunication developments is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications (PPG8), which was published in August 2001. The Government identifies modern telecommunications as an "essential and beneficial element in the life of the local community and in the national economy" (paragraph 1). The guidance seeks to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

5.2 PPG8 aims to "ensure that people have a choice as to who provides their telecommunications service, a wider range of services from which to choose and equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available" (paragraph 3).

5.3 Nevertheless, the Government remains committed to established national policies and advice for the protection of urban and rural areas. Local planning authorities and operators are encouraged in PPG8 to work together to "find the optimum environmental and network solution on a case-by case basis" (paragraph 68) whilst having regard to the technical constraints on the location and design of the proposed development.

Regional Planning Policy

5.4 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS) includes amongst its core development principles in Policy DP3 a requirement for good design quality in new development. It sets out guidance on how new development should demonstrate good design quality and should be appropriately located in order to respect the setting and environment.

Local Policy

5.5 The principal policy within the City of Salford Unitary Development Plan that is supplemented by this SPD is Policy DEV1: Telecommunications. This SPD will provide additional guidance on how this policy will be implemented. **UDP Policy DEV1** states that:

Proposals for telecommunication development will be permitted provided that their impact would be acceptable with respect to:

- **i. visual amenity;**
- **ii. residential amenity;**
- **iii. the appearance, character or fabric of an ancient monument, listed building or conservation area; and**
- **iv. sites or features of ecological, geological, archaeological, landscape or recreational value, including trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order; and where:**
- **v. the operator has demonstrated compliance with all relevant ICNIRP standards, taking into account any cumulative emissions from other nearby telecommunications equipment;**
- **vi. the need for the development, in terms of its role in the regional or national telecommunications network, has been demonstrated;**

vii. **the rationale and justification for site selection have been set out, and evidence provided that opportunities have been considered for mast/site sharing and locating equipment on existing buildings and structures; and**
viii. **the operator has provided evidence of pre-application discussions in accordance with national guidance and best practice.**

Reasoned Justification
The telecommunications industry is constantly evolving, and it is recognised that the planning system has a role in facilitating the improvement and expansion of telecommunications coverage. However, it is important that such development does not compromise environmental quality.

The visual impact of telecommunications development is a particularly important consideration, and factors that will be taken into account in determining this will include the design, siting and colour of the equipment, and its relationship to the surrounding townscape and landscape.

The impact of telecommunications equipment on human health is a major public concern, and all development will be required to meet all relevant standards of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

Conditions may be attached to planning permissions to help reduce the impact on visual amenity, for example by requiring equipment to be painted a certain colour, landscaping to be provided and maintained, protective fencing to be painted or of a certain type, surplus equipment to be removed, or the restoration of a site once a development is no longer required.

The city council has prepared supplementary planning guidance on telecommunications development and this is currently being updated and will be published as a Supplementary Planning Document so as to provide further policy clarification. The city council maintains a record of mast locations to assist operators in exploring the options for mast sharing.

SPD OBJECTIVES

5.6 In light of the issues highlighted above, three key objectives have been identified for the SPD:

1. To ensure installations are located sensitively in order to minimise environmental impact.
2. To secure the highest possible quality of design for all installations.
3. To support the provision of high quality telecommunications networks that contribute to economic growth and social inclusion.

6 Processing Applications

6.1 Most telecommunication installations fall under the definition of "development", however, relatively minor telecommunications development does not require express permission as it is granted planning permission under the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) 1995. For more information on the GPDO visit the Department for Communities and Local Government website www.communities.gov.uk.

Mobile Phone Base Stations

6.2 The GPDO legislation for development by telecommunications codes system operators is complex and difficult to summarise concisely. However, telecommunication development will normally fall into one of three categories:

(i) Permitted development that requires no consent from the Local Planning Authority

6.3 Minor works, including alterations to existing masts and the erection of additional antennae, are permitted development and do not require planning permission or "prior approval".

6.4 Under the terms of the Electronic Communications Code, operators are required to notify the council of their intention to carry out such works in some instances.

6.5 The public is not consulted as part of these procedures.

(ii) Permitted development that only requires 'prior approval' from the Local Planning Authority

6.6 The majority of ground based masts up to and including 15m in height (excluding any antennas attached to the mast) and smaller rooftop installations are permitted development under Part 24 of the GPDO, and therefore do not require full planning permission (except in conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest), subject to the operator satisfying a 56 day 'prior approval procedure'.

6.7 This procedure enables the Local Planning Authority to assess whether the appearance and siting of the proposed installation is acceptable.

6.8 The Local Planning Authority has 56 days from the receipt of this type of application to make a determination and to notify the applicant of its decision. If no decision is made, or the local planning authority fails to notify the applicant of its decision within the 56-day period, permission is deemed to be granted. There is no power under the regulations to extend the 56-day determination period.

6.9 If the application for prior approval for the siting and appearance of telecommunications development is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Secretary of State within six months of the date of the notice of the Local Planning Authority's decision.

6.10 The public is consulted on prior approval applications.

(iii) Development that requires full planning permission from the Local Planning Authority

6.11 For masts over 15m in height, larger installations, and those located in conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest, full planning permission is required.

6.12 These applications are dealt with in the same way as other planning applications, and all material considerations will be considered. Local Planning Authorities are expected to decide planning applications within eight weeks of their submission, although in some instances this is not possible.

6.13 As with prior approval applications, where applications that require full planning permission are refused by the Local Planning Authority, the operator has the right of appeal to the Secretary of State within six months of the date of the notice of the Local Planning Authority's decision.

6.14 The public is consulted as part of these procedures.

Publicity and Notification

6.15 The city council will carry out appropriate notifications and publicity for each application for prior approval or full planning permission, taking into account the nature of the proposed development and its relationship to those who might be affected.

6.16 Individual letters notifying neighbouring owner/occupiers of land and property may be sent, site notices may be placed on or near the application site and a notice may also be put in the local press. In addition to this, a weekly list of all applications received is published and is made available on our website www.salford.gov.uk

6.17 In addition, if a mast or other telecommunications development (submitted as a prior approval or as a full planning application) falls within 200m of the boundary of a school/college, the city council and the applicant will notify the school/college and ask for their comments.

6.18 The city council is preparing a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) that will set out how the public will be consulted on new planning policy and planning applications. Once the SCI has been adopted, which is due to be in May 2008, consultation on applications for planning permission or prior approval will be required to conform to its provisions.

Satellite Dishes

6.19 A general permission exists under the GPDO, as amended, for satellite dishes in certain circumstances. These 'permitted development rights' allow satellite dishes to be installed without the need for planning permission subject to a number of restrictions.

6.20 A brief overview of when planning permission is usually required to install a satellite dish is provided below. However, if you are in any doubt as to whether you require planning permission then you should contact Urban Vision, which provides Salford's development control service on behalf of the council.

(i) Number of antennas

6.21 Planning permission is normally required to install a satellite dish on a building under 15m in height (including dwelling houses) if there are already two or more dishes on the building.

6.22 For buildings that are over 15m in height, planning permission is normally required to install a satellite dish if there are already four or more dishes on the building.

6.23 In the case of flats, these limits refer to the **building as a whole** and not to each separate flat. Consequently, if two flat dwellers have already installed satellite dishes and the building is under 15m in height, planning permission would be required for further installations. However, in such a case, the flat dweller may wish to examine the possibility of a shared dish.

(ii) Size of antennas

6.24 For buildings below 15m in height, installing a satellite dish that exceeds 100cm in any dimension will normally require planning permission. In the case of a second dish being installed, planning permission will be required if the second satellite dish exceeds 60cm in any dimension.

6.25 For buildings over 15m in height, satellite dishes over 130cm in in any dimension will normally require planning permission.

6.26 For all buildings, chimney mounted satellite dishes in excess of 60cm in in any dimension will normally require planning permission.

(iii) Location restrictions

6.27 For buildings below 15m in height, planning permission will be required to install a satellite dish that protrudes above the highest part of the roof by more than 60cm, or the highest part of the chimney, whichever is the lower. In buildings without a chimney stack satellite dishes will require planning permission if they exceed the highest part of the roof.

6.28 For buildings over 15m in height, planning permission will be required for dishes that protrude above the highest part of the roof by over 300cm.

(iv) Listed buildings and conservation areas

6.29 There are separate controls for work affecting listed buildings. The installation of a satellite dish on a listed building will usually require listed building consent, irrespective of whether it is given a deemed permission by permitted development rights, or not.

6.30 In addition to the factors listed above, permission will be required for satellite dishes on buildings in conservation areas if the dish is to be installed on a chimney stack, or on the wall or roofslope fronting a road or public footpath.

7 Planning Policies

Policy TEL 1

Site Selection

Telecommunications development should be located in accordance with the following order of preference:

1. **The sharing of existing telecommunications sites and installations, including masts, structures and buildings;**
2. **The use of existing buildings and structures where there are no existing telecommunications installations; and**
3. **The use of sites where there are no existing telecommunications installations.**

Applicants for prior approval and planning permission should demonstrate that they have considered all practicable options further up this hierarchy, and identify the extent of their area of search and reasoning behind it.

Proposals to site installations in sensitive areas will be required to demonstrate that there are no suitable alternative locations available outside those areas. Sensitive areas include:

- **The Green Belt;**
- **Conservation areas;**
- **Within the setting of a listed building or on a listed building; and**
- **Within the setting of a scheduled ancient monument or on a scheduled ancient monument.**

Reasoned Justification

7.1 By its nature, telecommunications development and its associated equipment may often appear unsightly. When seeking approval for the installation of new telecommunications equipment, applicants will therefore have to demonstrate that they have taken all reasonable measures to minimise the visual impact of the proposed development on the local environment.

7.2 The sharing of existing sites and buildings/structures reduces the overall number of masts and can lessen the visual impact of telecommunications development. Where an existing mast offers insufficient spare capacity at the requisite height, applicants will be expected to have investigated extending or replacing the mast in order to accommodate mast sharing, where this represents the best option in environmental terms. Applicants that choose not to mast-share where there is an opportunity to do so should fully justify the planning reasons for not sharing. If the evidence submitted with an application is not considered satisfactory, the city council may refuse planning permission.

7.3 The city council is, however, mindful of the possible negative impact sharing sites and installations can have on the local environment. In some instances sharing facilities may necessitate an increase in the mast height, or bulk, potentially resulting in ungainly structures that may have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or residential amenity. It is also recognised that sharing existing sites and buildings/structures needs to be practicable in terms of technical considerations and coverage issues.

7.4 The city council expects all applications for planning permission or prior approval to be accompanied by a statement to provide evidence that all practicable options further up this hierarchy have been considered, including the possibility of sharing facilities owned/used by other operators. The statement should show the extent of the area of search, discounted sites and the reasons for their unsuitability.

7.5 Where a new installation is proposed, and an application for planning permission or prior approval is required, the significance of the development as part of the national network will be an important material consideration when assessing the proposal. Where new installations are required for the Digital Switchover the need for the digital TV network has been agreed at the national level and, consequently, the Government has stated that no weight should be attached to any objections to proposed developments on the basis that analogue transmissions should be maintained.

7.6 The council accepts that to provide uninterrupted service coverage, installations may need to be located in sensitive locations. Nevertheless, inappropriate installations are capable of detracting from the special character of such locations and adversely affecting the objectives underlying their designation. Consequently, proposals to site telecommunications installations within sensitive areas will have to demonstrate that there are no suitable alternative sites outside of these areas.

7.7 For mobile phone base stations, the council will assist operators in locating sites by maintaining a register of existing telecommunication installations used by mobile phone operators within the city. Details of existing masts can also be viewed on the Office of Communication (Ofcom) web site (www.ofcom.org.uk).

7.8 This policy supplements UDP Policies DES1, CH1, CH2, CH3, EN1 and DEV1.

Policy TEL 2

Safeguarding Visual Amenity from New Installations

Proposals for new telecommunications installations will normally be permitted provided that such installations:

- **Are of a scale, height and design appropriate to the character of the area where the installation is to be sited, bearing in mind that the structure may also be seen from another area with different characteristics;**
- **Respect architectural style and avoid locations that detract from strong or important architectural details/features;**
- **Do not have an adverse impact on views, the skyline or important landmark structures;**
- **Avoid creating visual clutter;**
- **Use the simplest form of installation possible unless the site is considered suitable for mast sharing or a bespoke design with individual architectural or sculptural merit;**
- **Incorporate, where necessary, new landscaping to help screen the installation; and**
- **Use appropriate colour and materials to minimise the environmental impact.**

Reasoned Justification

7.9 Telecommunication installations often appear unsightly and can be an obtrusive feature on the street scene. Consequently, in order to reduce impact on visual amenity, it is essential that the design and siting of installations is informed by the context of the wider locality; this will involve careful consideration of the height, scale, siting, colours and materials to be used. The impact of any installation on the environment can also be minimised through camouflage and appropriate screening.

7.10 Telecommunications development on an existing building or structure should be sensitively designed so that the architectural quality and character of the building is not compromised. Where appropriate, new tall buildings should incorporate facilities for accommodating telecommunication equipment as part of their overall design. Effective provision in this way will enable telecommunications equipment to be seen as integral to the building itself rather than "bolted on" as an afterthought.

7.11 Generally, for free-standing installations, slim-line monopole masts are less intrusive than lattice towers but may be less suitable for mast sharing. When well sited and of comparable height to street furniture (e.g. street lighting columns), installations can have minimal impact within the street scene. Conversely, excessive height and bulky design can often result in incongruous installations that can be detrimental to visual and residential amenity.

7.12 Where proposals are in prominent locations such as public squares, parks, tourist attractions, transport nodes (including roundabouts) and at the entries to business parks or residential estates, proposals for "architectural" or "sculptural" masts that can by themselves or as part of a larger installation be considered to comprise a landmark or significant public art feature may be sought.

7.13 Locating installations in employment areas, adjacent to major transport routes such as motorways and mainline railways, and where there are existing tall buildings will often enable telecommunication development to be integrated with the least impact on residential amenity and visual amenity. These locations are considered to be the most appropriate locations for new base stations and mast/site-sharing. However the visual amenity of both these locations and the wider area must be reasonably safeguarded from incongruous structures of excessive height and/or prominence.

7.14 Applicants should also have regard to the guidance provided in Salford City Council's Design and Crime Supplementary Planning Document to ensure that the installation is designed so as to minimise the risk of anti-social behaviour or vandalism.

7.15 This policy supplements UDP Policies DES1, DES8 and DEV1.

Policy TEL 3

Free-Standing Installations on or Near Footways

Where installations are located on or near a footway the equipment should normally:

- **Be located within an established pattern of existing lamp columns or telegraph poles, if they exist, or, if not, located to the back of the footway;**
- **Not be located within visibility splays for pedestrians and vehicular traffic;**
- **Avoid reducing footway width to less than 2m;**
- **Avoid being located on the approach side of bus stops if the view of buses would be obstructed; and**
- **Keep equipment cabins to a minimum, preferably one, in the smallest size possible.**

Reasoned Justification

7.16 New installations should become an accepted and unobtrusive feature in both urban and rural areas. The installation should be sited where it represents the least visually intrusive solution for its immediate environment. Locating installations within an established pattern of existing lamp columns or telegraph poles, if one exists, can minimise the visual impact of telecommunications development.

7.17 In the interests of highway safety, it is essential to ensure that telecommunications development does not impede roadside visibility splays and sight lines. In particular, installations sited within 20m of pedestrian crossings or road junctions have the potential to obstruct views to the detriment of highway safety.

7.18 In addition, installations should avoid reducing the footpath width below acceptable limits to allow the free flow of pedestrians or wheelchair users; or interfere with the safe approach to, or operation of, bus stops.

7.19 This policy supplements UDP Policies DEV1 and DES1.

Policy TEL 4

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

All applications for telecommunications development in a conservation area, or on or within the setting of a listed building or scheduled ancient monument should be accompanied by a full appraisal of the impact of the proposed development. The appraisal will be required to:

- **Explain how the design and siting of the installation have taken into account the environmental characteristics of the area where it is to be located; and**
- **Include an assessment of the proposal from all strategic vantage points (including the use of photo-montages/illustrations).**

The appraisal for applications to place an installation on a listed building, scheduled ancient monument or a building that makes a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area must also demonstrate that:

- **The installation is effectively hidden or disguised in an appropriate manner that respects the character and architectural detailing of the building; and**
- **There would be no unacceptable harm to the fabric of the building or structure.**

Reasoned Justification

7.20 If an applicant has demonstrated that there are no suitable alternative sites, in accordance with the sequential approach established in Policy TEL1, it may be acceptable to locate an installation within a conservation area, or on or within the setting of a listed building or scheduled ancient monument.

7.21 The city's historic features make a significant contribution to local identity and distinctiveness and there is a statutory requirement to protect or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas and listed buildings.

7.22 Consequently, whilst the city council supports the development of the telecommunications network, applicants must give special consideration to the location and appearance of telecommunications installations, when the proposed installation is to be sited in a conservation area or on or in close proximity to a listed building or scheduled ancient monument.

7.23 Inappropriate installations are capable of eroding the architectural or historic character of these features/areas and adversely affecting their integrity or the objectives underlying their designation. Consequently, telecommunications installations will only be acceptable where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development would not unduly affect the character of a conservation area or the appearance, setting or architectural or historical features of a listed building or scheduled ancient monument.

7.24 This policy supplements UDP Policies DEV1, CH1, CH2, CH3 and CH5.

Policy TEL 5

Wi-Fi Provision in New Developments

The provision of wi-fi hotspots within major developments is encouraged, particularly within the Regional Centre, the rest of the mediacity:uk area, and the town centres.

A dense coverage of wi-fi hotspots will be sought within the Arc of Opportunity, and the heart of the mediacity:uk area around Quays Point.

Reasoned Justification

7.25 A modern communications infrastructure can deliver significant economic benefits. Fast, reliable and cost-effective communications, such as high quality wi-fi coverage, can help to attract businesses to an area, stimulate investment and help firms remain competitive. By supporting economic competitiveness and business growth, securing a dense wi-fi coverage can contribute towards the realisation of other policy goals, such as increasing employment opportunities, reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion.

7.26 A dense provision of wi-fi hotspots within The Arc of Opportunity, as defined in UDP Policy E3 and on the Proposals Map, will help to realise the aspiration to develop the area into a centre for financial and professional services; creative, cultural and media industries; research and development; and higher education. A dense coverage in this location could also support the University of Salford's role as a higher education establishment of national and international importance by providing access to high quality, cost-effective communications for staff and students.

7.27 As an area envisaged as a modern digital city, a dense wi-fi coverage will also be sought at the heart of the mediacity:uk area around Quays Point. The particular emphasis on attracting high technology, knowledge based, and media and creative industries to mediacity:uk will necessitate access to high quality communications, such as wi-fi provision. The proposed BBC development at mediacity:uk will also increase the demand for high quality communications.

7.28 Wi-fi provision will be encouraged more generally across the city, particularly within the Regional Centre and the four town centres where there is the greatest potential for it to make a positive contribution to the economy of the city and to reach the greatest number of people.

7.29 This policy supplements UDP Policies E3, EHC5 and DEV1.

Policy TEL 6

Interference with Television Signals

Proposals for tall buildings and structures should be accompanied by an assessment of the likely impact of the development on television reception. Such an assessment should:

- **Identify, the potential impact area in which television reception is likely to be adversely affected by the development;**
- **Measure the existing television signal reception within this potential impact area;**
- **Assess the impact of the development on television signal reception within the potential impact area; and**
- **Identify mitigation measures necessary to maintain as a minimum the pre-existing level and quality of signal reception.**

The assessment should be carried out by an independent body agreed with the Local Planning Authority prior to the assessment being undertaken.

Reasoned Justification

7.30 The continued and uninterrupted supply of telecommunications services is essential for assisting economic growth and reducing the need to travel. Modern telecommunications are also an important and beneficial element of life in the local community.

7.31 Large, prominent structures, such as tall buildings or wind turbines, can cause interference to broadcast services due to physical obstruction or reflection of signals. When assessing planning applications, impact upon the telecommunications system is a material planning consideration and development will not normally be permitted where proposals would have a detrimental impact on television signals activity, unless the adverse impacts can be successfully mitigated.

7.32 Digital television signals are far more robust than analogue and, as the Digital Switchover takes place, problems of interference caused by reflections from structures should be reduced. However, proposals for tall buildings and other structures with potential to have an unacceptable impact on telecommunications activity will need to demonstrate that the potential for interference has been fully taken into account in the siting and design of such developments.

7.33 Where possible, mitigation measures should be designed into the development, in particular the height and width of each face of the structure, the material and outside surface finish, and the orientations of the sides of the structure in relation to any local transmitter, can influence the impact on broadcast and other telecommunications services.

7.34 This policy supplements UDP Policies DES5 and DEV1.

Policy TEL 7

Telephone Boxes

Traditional "red" telephone boxes within the city should be retained. Within conservation areas, opportunities should be taken to secure the reintroduction of such telephone boxes.

Reasoned Justification

7.35 The traditional red telephone boxes are a valuable element of the character and heritage of the city. It is therefore important that they are protected and enhanced. There are currently two Grade II listed "K6" telephone boxes within Salford, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, located on The Crescent and at Worsley Road, Worsley. Both of these lie within conservation areas. The city council will support and encourage the reintroduction of red telephone boxes within the city, particularly within its conservation areas, where they can help to conserve and enhance the character and appearance of the area.

7.36 This policy supplements UDP Policies CH1, CH3 and CH8.

8 Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Implementation

8.1 The provisions of this SPD will be implemented primarily through the development control process and the determination of applications for planning permission or prior approval. The SPD does not have the status of the development plan (for the purposes of Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004), but will be an important material consideration in determining applications for planning permission or prior approval.

8.2 Operators are advised to discuss possible schemes with Urban Vision, which provides Salford's development control service on behalf of the city council, at the earliest opportunity, and wherever possible prior to any full planning or prior notification application being submitted. This will help to ensure that the requirements of this SPD are fully understood and are taken into account in development proposals.

Monitoring

8.3 The effectiveness of the SPD will be assessed each year in Salford's Annual Monitoring Report. This will identify whether there have been any problems in implementing the SPD, and assess whether it is having its intended effects. The key indicators will be:

- % of applications for mobile phones installations that involve mast or site sharing.
- "% of people who like the neighbourhood they live in" to act as a proxy.

Review

8.4 The assessment of the SPD's performance in the Annual Monitoring Report will help to identify whether there is a need for the SPD to be reviewed. If a need for review is identified, then a timetable for this process will be included in Salford's Local Development Scheme as resources permit.

Appendix 1 Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the Stewart Report?**
- **What is ICNIRP?**
- **How does ICNIRP represent a precautionary approach?**
- **Why do we need more mobile phone installations?**
- **What is the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB)**
- **Will the application be determined by Members of the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel?**
- **Do mobile phone operators carry out any consultation prior to the submission of an application for planning permission or prior approval?**
- **What are rollout plans?**
- **What consideration is given to the impact of telecommunications development on property values?**

What is the Stewart Report?

Recognising public concern about the possible health effects of mobile telecommunication equipment, the Government set up the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP) chaired by Sir William Stewart. The group published its findings, known as the Stewart Report, in May 2000.

The Stewart Report concluded that while mobile phones and base stations emit radiofrequency (RF) radiation, "the balance of evidence to date suggests that exposures to RF radiation below both the NRPB and the ICNIRP guidelines do not cause adverse health effects to the general population". In addition, the Stewart Report stated, "there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations where the (RF) exposures are only a small fraction of the guidelines". However, the report acknowledged that there were still gaps in knowledge about RF radiation. Consequently, it recommended that a 'precautionary approach' be adopted until much more detailed and scientifically robust information on health effects becomes available in the future.

You can see more information about the Stewart Report on the website ***www.iegmp.org.uk***

What is ICNIRP?

The International Commission of Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an independent scientific body, which, working closely with the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, has investigated and published an international set of guidelines to help protect the public from exposure to various non-ionizing radiation sources. The guidelines are based on analysis of published scientific literature (about both thermal and non-thermal effects) and offer protection against all identified hazards of RF energy, with large safety margins built in.

Permission for certain telecommunications development in Salford will only be permitted if the applicant has demonstrated compliance with all relevant ICNIRP standards, taking into account any cumulative emissions from other nearby telecommunications equipment.

Further information about the role of the ICNIRP and its published guidelines can be viewed on the website ***www.icnirp.de***

How does ICNIRP represent a precautionary approach?

The guidelines provided by ICNIRP ensure that, within the given exposure limit, no known adverse health effects will occur. A large safety factor is built in to these guidelines.

The ICNIRP standards for exposure levels for the general public are set at least 50 times below the level at which it is believed any adverse health affect can occur. Therefore, for example, the maximum exposure levels you might experience in the environment or in your home are at least 50 times lower than the threshold level at which exposure may affect health.

RF exposures from mobile phone base stations in areas of public access are far below these exposure guidelines, typically by a factor of hundreds if not a thousand times.

The analogue television broadcast network is already compliant with ICNIRP guidelines. Following the Digital Switchover, transmissions will generally be at a lower level and very few sites will experience an increase in radio frequency emissions as a result of digital switchover, but those that do will still be well within the ICNIRP guidelines. However, a certificate of ICNIRP compliance should still accompany applications.

Why do we need more mobile phone installations?

Mobile phones cannot work without a network of base stations in places where people want to use them. Each of the operators divides the country into thousands of individual 'cells', with a 'base station' at the centre of each cell. The whole system is known collectively as the 'network'. The area covered by any individual cell within the network is governed by the capacity (volume) of calls made, the height of the antenna above the ground, the local geographical features, the power output from the base station and the level of radio frequency used. As base stations can only carry a maximum of around 120 calls at the same time, the smallest cells tend to be in urban areas where the systems are more heavily used.

Growing demands for mobile technology and better communications in business, electronic commerce, in the home and amongst the public has necessitated an increase in the need for additional infrastructure, in the form of masts or base stations, to deliver these services.

In addition, the five mobile phone operators are required to develop a 3G network covering 80% of the population by 2007. The 3G network operates on a digital basis and at a higher frequency than the previous analogue systems ('second generation'). This digital system has a shorter transmission capability than the previous analogue systems. Consequently, individual base stations do not provide as wide a coverage as those of the older 2G networks and, as a result, 3G networks will require additional base stations to achieve the same geographical coverage.

All applications for telecommunications development are required to demonstrate evidence of the need for the development in relation to the network coverage/capacity and how the proposal responds to this need.

What is the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB)

The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) was created by the Radiological Protection Act 1970 to research and promote knowledge about protecting the public from radiation hazards. The NRPB, which is now part of the Health Protection Agency (HPA), has two main functions: to advance knowledge about the protection of mankind from radiation hazards and to provide information and advice to persons in the UK with responsibilities relating to protection from radiation hazards.

You can see more information about the effects of EMF and RF on the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) website ***www.nrpb.org.uk***

Will the application be determined by Members of the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel?

Applications for prior approval for telecommunications development will not necessarily be determined by the elected Members on the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel irrespective of the number of objections that are received.

The majority of ground based masts up to and including 15m in height do not require full planning permission (except in conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest), subject to the operator satisfying a 56-day 'prior approval procedure'. This procedure enables the Local Planning Authority to assess whether the appearance and siting of the proposed installation are acceptable.

For applications for prior approval, the Local Planning Authority has 56 days from the receipt of the application to make a determination and to notify the applicant of its decision. If no decision is made, or the Local Planning Authority fails to notify the applicant of its decision within the 56-day period, permission is deemed to be granted. There is no power under the regulations to extend the 56-day determination period. Due to these timeframes to determine prior approval applications, the council has adopted delegation procedures for determining such applications, as it may not be possible for an application to be determined by the Planning and Transportation Regulatory Panel before the 56 days expire.

For masts over 15m in height, larger installations, and those located in conservation areas, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest, full planning permission is required. These applications are dealt with in the same way as other planning applications, and all material considerations will be considered. Local Planning Authorities are expected to decide planning applications within eight weeks of their submission, although in some instances this is not possible. Members usually determine these applications if objections from the occupiers of 6 or more separate properties are received.

These arrangements may change should the council's scheme of delegation be reviewed.

You can see full details of the council's decision making process at **www.salford.gov.uk**

Do mobile phone operators carry out any consultation prior to the submission of an application for planning permission or prior approval?

National planning guidance on telecommunications development states that pre-application discussions should be carried out between operators and local planning authorities on specific development proposals in order to allow the authority to comment on the appropriateness of the siting and design of the proposed installation. Operators are also encouraged to carry out pre-application discussions with any school/college that is near the proposed installation and with other organisations that have an interest in the proposed development, such as residential groups, parish councils, or amenity bodies.

In 2002, the telecommunications industry, working with the ODPM (now the DCLG) and other key stakeholders, developed the Traffic Light Rating Model for determining the levels of pre-application consultation that should be carried out. The Traffic Light Model allows a site to be rated by the operator according to its likely sensitivity in terms of environmental, planning and community considerations. Depending on the rating, a plan is devised that sets out the methods to be employed together with who is to be consulted and in what manner. Under the Traffic Light Model, if a site is rated green then generally the operators consider that the statutory consultation process is sufficient. If the site is rated amber or red, the operator should as a minimum send letters to Ward Councillors. However, there are a number of additional consultation tasks that could be undertaken by the operator, such as hosting 'drop in' sessions or carrying out a local mail shot.

This pre-application consultation takes place outside of the formal planning process and is the responsibility of the operators, not the council. It is not a substitute for the publicity and notification that is undertaken when an application for planning permission or prior approval is submitted to the council.

Further information on the pre-application consultation process, including the Traffic Light Rating system, can be found at www.mobilemastinfo.com

What are rollout plans?

Rollout plans provide an indication of the mobile phone operator's preferred locations for new sites for telecommunications installations for the year ahead. They provide a valuable opportunity for operators to share information about their proposals with local planning authorities, who in turn can offer feedback, guidance and advice on the suitability of the plans.

The procedure is intended to provide a strategic overview, rather than detailed analysis and advice on any individual site, which can be more usefully given at the pre-application discussion stage. Nothing in the rollout plans represents an application to the Local Planning Authority for any sort of permission or approval. The proposed base station sites are often located around the nominal centre of the area of search for the required cell. Consequently, the actual final site chosen will often be in close proximity to that identified on the rollout plan, but not necessarily at the specific location shown on the plan itself.

Although the pre-rollout information is supposed to provide a forecast of future network development activity, it must be recognised that, in some circumstances, such as where capacity demands on the network change following the submission of the plans, additional sites or variations to those shown on the plans may be needed.

What consideration is given to the impact of telecommunications development on property values?

The city council regularly receives objections to proposed telecommunication development on the grounds that the installations will have an adverse impact on the value of their property.

The Government advises that it is not for the planning system to protect the private interests of one person against the activities of another. Consequently, the key question is not whether a particular development would cause financial or other loss to owners and occupiers of the neighbouring property, but whether the proposal would have a detrimental effect on the locality generally, and on amenities that ought, in the public interest, to be protected.

This could include matters such as visual amenity and the character and appearance of an area, but not individual property prices.

Appendix 2 The Mobile Phone Operators' Ten Commitments

The Mobile Operators Association, in association with the main mobile telecommunication operators, has made the following best practice commitments in order to improve the amount of information provided to and consultation carried out with Local Planning Authorities and local communities:

1. Develop, with other stakeholders, clear standards and procedures to deliver significantly improved consultation with local communities.

2. Participate in obligatory pre-rollout and pre-application consultation with local planning authorities.

3. Publish clear, transparent and accountable criteria and cross-industry agreement on site-sharing, against which progress will be published regularly.

4. Establish professional development workshops on technological developments within telecommunications for local authority officers and elected members.

5. Deliver, with the Government, a database of information available to the public on radio base stations.

6. Assess all radio base stations for international (ICNIRP) compliance for public exposure and produce a programme for ICNIRP compliance for all radio base stations as recommended by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones.

7. Provide, as part of planning applications for radio base stations, a certification of compliance with ICNIRP public exposure guidelines.

8. Provide specific staff resources to respond to complaints and enquiries about radio base stations, within 10 working days.

9. Begin financially supporting the Government's independent scientific research programme on mobile telecommunications health issues.

10. Develop standard supporting documentation for all planning submissions whether full planning or prior approval.

More information about the Ten Commitments and the role of the Mobile Operators Association is available on the website

www.mobilemastinfo.com

Appendix 3 Glossary

2G (2nd Generation) – The second generation of mobile phone technology, which uses radio frequencies in the range between 900MHz and 1800MHz.

3G (3rd Generation)– Third generation is the generic term used for the next generation of mobile communications systems. This system offers multi-media and Internet access and the ability to view video footage via the handset. These services operate at 2200 MHz (2.2GHz).

Antenna – A device that transmits and receives radio waves. Antennas are usually erected on top of the base station mast or directly onto a building or other suitable supporting structure.

Base station – A fixed radio transmitter receiver that electronically relays signals to and from mobile handsets and other data terminals. The term generally includes all the following components of the development: the antenna, mast or supporting structure, equipment housing, power cable and ancillary security fencing, whether the base station is erected on land or buildings.

Cell – A geographical area over which base stations transmit and receive radio signals to and from mobile phones to provide service coverage. Cells link together like a honeycomb to provide continuous/seamless coverage across a wide area providing mobile phones with an uninterrupted service as they traverse through an area communicating with successive base stations. There are three types of cell; macrocell, microcell and picocell.

Cabin - A structure that protects radio transmitters and receivers from damage. They can be in the form of large cabins or smaller cabinets.

Electromagnetic Waves/Fields - Electromagnetic waves are used to transmit and receive signals from mobile phones and their base stations and are also emitted by natural human-made sources. The type of electromagnetic waves used in mobile phones is called radio frequency (RF) waves/fields.

Feeder cable - The cable which connects an antenna to a base station transmitter or receiver.

Frequency - Frequency is the number of times per second at which an electromagnetic wave oscillates. Frequencies between 30 kHz and 300 GHz are widely used for telecommunication, including broadcast radio and television, and comprise the radio frequency band.

ICNIRP - The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is an independent scientific organisation responsible for providing guidance and advice on the health hazards of non-ionising radiation exposure.

Macrocell - A macrocell provides the largest area of coverage within a mobile network. The antennas for macrocells are typically mounted on ground-based masts, rooftops or other existing structures. They must be positioned at a height that is not obstructed by terrain or buildings.

Mast - A ground-based or roof-top structure that supports antennas at a height where they can satisfactorily send and receive radio waves. Masts themselves play no part in the transmission of mobile telecommunications.

Microcell - Microcells provide additional coverage and capacity where there are high numbers of users within urban and suburban areas. Microcell antenna are usually smaller than macrocell antenna, and are typically mounted at street level on external walls of existing structures, lamp-posts and other street furniture. They can often be effectively integrated into existing building features and streetscape. Their range is limited and they transmit at a low power.

Mobile Operators Association (MOA) – Established in January 2003 to represent the five UK mobile phone network operators on radio frequency, health and planning issues.

Permitted development – Certain types of development automatically have planning permission without the need to apply to the council for approval. This is known as 'permitted development'. The Government sets the rules that decide what is permitted development.

Picocell - A picocell provides more localised coverage than a microcell. These are normally found inside buildings where coverage is poor or there are a high number of users such as airport terminals, train stations or shopping centres.

Prior approval – Certain types of development are permitted development that does not require separate planning permission subject to the operator satisfying a 'prior approval procedure' when the Local Planning Authority has 56 days to assess whether the appearance and siting of the proposed installation are acceptable.

Transmitter – Electronic equipment that generates radio frequency electromagnetic energy (RF or radio waves) from an antenna to a connecting source such as a mobile phone or radio.

Wi-fi (wireless fidelity) – Popular term for a high-frequency wireless local area network. It enables users to create wireless local networks, which connect two or more computers to each other and/or to a faster Internet line.