

Report of: Planning Services Business Manager

To: Executive Board

Date: 16th April 2007

Item No:

Title of Report : Draft Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: For Executive Board to consider Draft Telecommunications Draft Supplementary Planning Document before it is consulted for formal public consultation.

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Goddard

Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Goddard

Legal: Legal & Democratic Services (Kate Chirnside)

Strategic Director: Sharon Cosgrove

Finance: Financial Management (Christopher Kaye)

Head of Planning: Michael Crofton-Briggs

Policy Framework: The production of this document fulfils a commitment of Local Development Scheme. It will also build on policies set out in the adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive Board agrees to:

1. approve the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Telecommunications for formal public consultation
2. authorise the Planning Policy Manager to alter the text of the draft Supplementary Planning Document before publication for consultation and to make any necessary editorial corrections.



Summary

1. The purpose of this report is for the Executive Board to consider the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Telecommunications prior to formal public consultation. When adopted, it will form part of the Local Development Framework and support the policies of the adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016.
2. The draft SPD has been considered by the Area Committees. A summary of the comments made by three of the six Area Committees, and the officer's responses, is attached as Appendix C. The comments from the three remaining Area Committees will be circulated before the meeting as a supplementary report. Some changes have been made to the text since circulation to the Area Committees following legal advice (shown highlighted), as well as the inclusion of a number of illustrative photographs.
3. The Executive Board is asked to approve the document for public consultation and also to authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any editorial corrections necessary prior to consultation.

Vision and strategic aims

4. The production of this Supplementary Planning Document fulfils a commitment of the Local Development Scheme. It will also support the City Council's vision by improving Oxford's environment.

Background

5. The City Council has committed to the production of this Supplementary Planning Document in the Local Development Scheme as approved by the Council and the Secretary of State. It documents will support and supplement policies of the adopted Local Plan 2001-2016.
6. Once adopted, the Supplementary Planning Document will form part of the Local Development Framework. This status will allow it to be used in the determination of planning applications as a material consideration under Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
7. The document has been produced in line with the procedure and programme set out in the Local Development Scheme. This process has involved early community involvement (as set out below) and sustainability appraisal.
8. A Sustainability Appraisal assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared. An executive summary of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Supplementary Planning Document is appended to this report. Copies of the full report will be placed in the Members' Rooms.

Content

9. The SPD will set out basic background information on mobile phone networks, and provide detailed guidance on planning procedural and policy requirements in Oxford. The matters covered include:
 - protocol for annual rollout discussion and pre-application submissions;
 - outline of application submission procedure, to distinguish between full applications and permitted development requiring prior approval;
 - submission of information on the need for the proposal as an essential network requirement;
 - procedure for assessing alternative sites, including existing sites and buildings and mast sharing;
 - information on how future network capacity has been considered;
 - guidance on base station design requirements;
 - guidance on the content and structure of an HRIA, including details expected on expected radiofrequency emissions, and how this relates to international guidelines.

Consultation

10. Consultation has been undertaken in order to prepare the draft of this Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. The Development Control User Panel were made aware of the document prior to its preparation. Potential community and industry stakeholders were identified and sent a briefing note inviting comments on scope and content at the pre-production stage. Two stakeholder workshops were also held, one for representatives of the mobile network operators, and one for Council members, and members of the public who were identified as potentially having an interest.
11. The next stage of the production process will involve public consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document and the sustainability appraisal report. Following approval of the document for consultation, it will be published, advertised and made available for public comment. The consultation will last for six weeks and will run concurrently with the consultation on the sustainability appraisal report.

Financial and staffing implications

14. The production of this Supplementary Planning Document is a commitment in the Local Development Scheme. This sets out Local Development Framework production milestones that must be met. A key performance indicator in assessing Planning Delivery Grant is whether authorities achieve the milestones set out in their Local Development Schemes.
15. In terms of staffing, the consultation and further work on the production of the Supplementary Planning Document will be met from the current

staff resources of the Planning Policy team with input from other Business Units as appropriate.

The next stages

16. Following approval of this document, it will be published for public consultation. This consultation will be carried out in line with the Statement of Community Involvement and as set out above. Representations will be carefully considered and reported back to committees alongside a final draft of the document. As Supplementary Planning Documents are not subject to independent examination, Executive Board and Council will then be asked to approve and endorse the Supplementary Planning Document for adoption in the early Autumn.

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Background papers: None for this covering report but the policy documents themselves have background papers and other sources of information referenced.

Appendix

Appendix A – Draft Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document
Appendix B – Sustainability Appraisal Executive Summary
Appendix C – Area Committee Comments (Central South & West; North East; East Area Parliament) and Officer responses

(Note that a further supplementary report setting out comments from South East, Cowley and North Area Committees and Officer responses  be circulated ahead of the meeting.)