

Draft Report of: Planning Services Business Manager

To: Executive Board – 13th August 2007
Council – 3rd September 2007

Item No:

Title of Report : Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on
Telecommunications

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To adopt the Supplementary Planning Document on
Telecommunications

Key decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Goddard

Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder: Councillor John Goddard

Legal: Legal and Democratic Services (Kate Chirside)

Finance: Financial Management (Christopher Kaye)

Strategic Director: Sharon Cosgrove

Policy Framework: The production of this document fulfils a commitment of the Local Development Scheme. It will also support the City Council's vision of improving the environment where we live and work.

Recommendation(s):

That Executive Board recommend to Council that they:

1. adopt the Supplementary Planning Document on Telecommunications;
2. authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any necessary editorial corrections.

That Council:

1. adopt the Supplementary Planning Document on Telecommunications;
2. authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any necessary editorial corrections.

Summary

1. In April 2007 Executive Board considered the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Telecommunications. It was then subject to a six-week period of public consultation in May and June 2007.
2. The purpose of this report is to consider responses made to the draft SPD and for Council to adopt it. The document will then form part of the Local Development Framework and support policies of the adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001 – 2016.
3. Executive Board are asked to recommend that Council adopt the Supplementary Planning Document. Council is asked to adopt the Document and authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any editorial corrections. The SPD is attached as Appendix A – highlighted track changes show amendments to the consultation draft.

Background and context

4. The City Council have committed to the production of this document in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) as approved by Council and by the Secretary of State. It will support and supplement policies of the adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001 – 2016.
5. Once adopted the SPD will form part of the Local Development Framework. This status will allow it to be used in the determination of planning applications as material considerations under Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
6. The document has been produced in line with the procedure and programme set out in the LDS. This process has involved early community involvement and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of the document. The South East England Regional Assembly has confirmed that the consultation draft was in general conformity with the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy and the draft South East Plan.

Content

7. The SPD sets out background information on mobile phone networks, and provides 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.
8. Changes have been made to the consultation draft following public consultation and further legal advice. These changes are shown in the SPD attached as Appendix A.

Consultation

9. Public consultation on the draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal took place from 27th April to 8th June 2007. Letters were sent to all identified Residents' Associations in Oxford, as well as other stakeholders and individuals identified as having an interest in the SPD. A public notice was also placed in the Oxford Times, and the SPD and its background papers were published on the City Council website. Comments arising from the consultation, and the officer's response to them, are attached as Appendix B.

Financial and staffing implications

10. 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.
11. In terms of staffing, any 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

12. If adopted, the SPD will be subject to any necessary minor editorial changes. The adopted SPD will then form part of the Local Development Framework, and be a material planning consideration when determining planning applications under Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Appendices

- A Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document (track changed version)
- B Summary of comments made during consultation, officer responses and proposed amendments.

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Background papers: None for this covering report but the policy document has sources and further information referenced.