

# CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL – TELECOMS ACTION PLAN

REVISED JANUARY 2007

<b>Panel Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Comments/Current Situation</b>
<p>1. The stated policy of the Council should be: <i>'To take a precautionary approach to the siting of mobile phone masts within Cambridge'</i></p>	<p>1.1 Council to adopt precautionary approach to the siting of new masts on property within its ownership. Emissions levels of new masts on property in Council ownership to be kept as low as possible and in any case not exceeding 3V/ m as recommended by the Panel.</p> <p>1. 2 Where masts are to be sited other than on Council owned buildings, officers to take every opportunity to encourage operators to minimise emission levels in the spirit of the Stewart Group Report and in any event, all emissions to be in line with ICNIRP guidelines.</p> <p>1.3 The Council to use the Local Forum to encourage operators to minimise emissions levels.</p>	<p>Council has adopted this policy through the lease agreements. Operators have complied to date.</p> <p>Copies recommendation in PPG8. See also action 7.4 – three audits have been commissioned by CCC in 2004 – these show levels well within guidelines. Random audits should be carried out every year, with results on CCC website. OFCOM to audit one site in 2005.</p> <p>Local Forum needs to agree how this can best be achieved. Will need monitoring – random audits. This is already a requirement of PPG8.</p>

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<p>2. The Council should seek to achieve a maximum emission level at any mast, microcell or group of masts at any location within a populated area of Cambridge, of 3V/ m.</p>	<p>2.1 As 1.1, 1.2 and 1. 3 above</p> <p>2.2 Check emission levels at planning application stage (but cannot be used as reason for refusal).</p> <p>2.3 Use Cassiopea radiation monitoring unit and audits to monitor emissions on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Comments as above. Need to define 'populated area'. Audits of three sites carried out in April 2004 show that levels are below this figure. Partly covered in recommendation 1.</p> <p><b>Action to date</b> – This action point has been fulfilled in respect of masts on Council property. In respect of other property it is more difficult to secure in the context of PPG 8 guidance. Need to ascertain emission level at application stage; assess levels from monitoring unit &amp; other audits.</p>
<p>3. The Council should apply a 'blanket' precautionary approach to all populated areas within Cambridge.</p>	<p>3.1 As 1.2 and 1. 3 above, recognising that whilst this might be an aspiration of the Council, current legislation prevents it from applying a blanket emissions level of 3V/ m on masts sited other than on Council owned buildings.</p>	<p>This action point could be seen as having been addressed by 1 &amp; 2 and in respect of the reference to populated areas has no basis in PPG8.</p> <p><b>Action to date</b> – In dealing with operators, the Council generally adopts the precautionary approach in so far as it is promoted by PPG8. Populated areas have not been defined and it may prove difficult to do so.</p>
<p>4. The Council should appoint a Liaison Officer (or designate an existing officer) with specific responsibilities for liaising with mobile phone operators, county council, other public bodies and the wider community.</p>	<p>4.1 A Telecoms Liaison Officer (TLO) was in post from Jan 2003 to March 2006. Duties now carried out by two Planning Officers.</p>	



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<p>6. A Communication Strategy should be developed through the Local Forum. The strategy framework should comprise 3 areas: National, Cambridge and Site Specific.</p>	<p>6.1 Liaison Officers to continue with the strategy of improving communications with Forum Members, members of the public and Council Members.</p>	<p>'Telecoms' section in Council website established summer 2003, with links to Mast Register &amp; useful external e-mail addresses. Mast register updated on a regular basis - GIS version to be launched. TLO has set up group email for Forum to distribute information about the Forum, local issues, matters of common interest etc.</p>
<p>7. The Council should ensure that effective monitoring procedures are introduced.</p>	<p>7.1 Officers to investigate introducing links from Council website to the Government's nationwide mast register so that public can get information about locations of masts and their maximum licensed power output.</p> <p>7.2 Publicising the sitefinder website and the Council's own Mast Register should be considered as part of the Communication Strategy (see Panel Recommendation 6).</p> <p>7.3 Through the Local Forum, officers to request details from operators of all 'independent' emission level surveys that are carried out within the city (operators have indicated that they would be prepared to do this).</p>	<p>ACTION COMPLETED. The TLO has set up links between the Council's web site, the site finder website and the Council's own mast register as part of the Comms Strategy. Ongoing work by the Liaison Officers will be needed to maintain the web site.</p> <p>Promoted at October 2003 seminar &amp; July 2004 Forum.</p> <p>The Government is carrying out its own audits &amp; results are available on the Web. This may negate some of the need for further independent audits by the Council. Public unlikely to trust surveys commissioned by operators. The Forum to ensure that emission information is made available &amp; well publicised.</p>

	<p>7.4 The Liaison Officers to be responsible for commissioning independent random emission audits, as identified through the Forum and in response to application and/or particular local concern.</p> <p>The Liaison Officers to publicise the results of these audits through the website &amp; to make available to Forum members &amp; other interested parties.</p> <p>The Liaison Officers to be responsible for administering the Vodafone monitoring unit and publicising the results.</p> <p>The Liaison Officers to request audits from OFCOM as appropriate.</p> <p>7.5 Through the Forum, officers to pursue options for producing an emissions contour map.</p>	<p>In the light of the ongoing costs of maintaining equipment and the training of staff, this has taken place through the use of an independent consultant instead.</p> <p>The Head of Property and Building Services has tested some of the masts on Council property. Further 3 audits carried out on non-Council owned sites in April 2004 - all sites were within ICNIRP guidelines &amp; below 3V/m level. A Vodafone EMF monitoring unit has been in place since Summer 2005.</p> <p>Additional audits may be needed in the future as identified through the Forum and in relation to applications. These will need to be commissioned by the Liaison Officers. The Liaison Officers will also be responsible for dealing with issues relating to the monitoring unit and how to disseminate this information.</p> <p>Advice from independent consultants will be needed to establish whether this is possible and cost effective.</p> <p>To be discussed at Local Forum.</p>
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<p>8. The Council, through the Local Liaison Group, should ensure that effective labelling of masts and microcells and marking of exclusion zones around masts and microcells is introduced and monitored.</p>	<p>8.1 Ongoing monitoring of labelling to be carried out by Liaison Officers and Head of Property Services. Operators to be advised of any missing labelling.</p> <p>8.2 For masts on Council owned buildings, officers to ensure that proper labelling is introduced and that exclusion zones are clearly marked out in the immediate vicinity of any mast where emissions levels exceed 3V/ m. These measures to be a requirement of any new licence issued by the Council. TLO has prepared a safety guidance note for staff &amp; contractors.</p>	<p>This issue is largely covered by PPG8 &amp; H &amp; S checks carried out by operators. Ongoing monitoring carried out by Liaison Officers. Operators are advised of any missing labelling. Liaison Officers to remind operators at Local Forum meetings.</p> <p>Monitoring to be carried out by Liaison Officers /Head of Property Services.</p> <p>Guidance for CCC staff, contractors, etc has been prepared by TLO &amp; Health &amp; Safety Officer in relation to health and safety implications.</p>
<p>9. Notwithstanding the requirements of PPG8, the Council should seek, through negotiation with mobile phone operators, to gain agreement whereby design options for all masts / microcells (even when outside the remit of Planning legislation and guidelines) are submitted to the Council for approval before they are installed.</p>	<p>9. 1 The Liaison Officers to be the Council's consultee for designs of masts / microcells for specific 'non-planning' applications. Liaison Officers to liaise with Conservation section &amp; Forum, as appropriate. Prepare a Design Guide.</p> <p>9.2 Designs for all types of base stations to be in accordance with Code of Best Practice and the Council's own Design Guide.</p>	<p>It will be difficult for the Local Forum to discuss individual proposals therefore a design guide may be the best way forward, with general guidelines laid down for new developments. Forum has approved a Telecoms Design Guide &amp; this has been distributed to the operators.</p> <p>This process is already in place. Licence applications will still be looked at in detail, to ensure appropriate design.</p>

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<p>10. The Council, as a landlord, should adopt the same precautionary approach recommended in 1.1 and 2. 2 and reinforced in 3.3 above and should also seek to comply with the other recommendations as appropriate</p>	<p>10. 1 Officers to comply with this recommendation when negotiating new licenses for masts on Council owned buildings</p>	<p>Policy has been adopted. Ongoing issue. This is mainly a matter for the Head of Property and Building Services. Liaison is needed between the Liaison Officers and the Property Services section in relation to applications on Council property.</p>
<p>11. Before entering into any new agreements for mobile phone masts on Council owned property, the Council should review the terms of their standard agreement in light of the seminar. The Council should also review the terms of existing agreements and seek to re-negotiate where appropriate.</p>	<p>11. 1 As 10. 1 above paying particular attention to the proximity of the mast, labelling of the mast (including marking of exclusion zone if necessary), emissions level of the mast (not to exceed 3V/ m), length of License (not to exceed 5 years), notification of people in the vicinity that the mast is to be erected, monitoring of emission levels and exit strategy (should evidence come to light that emissions levels of 3V/ m or less are harmful).</p> <p>11. 2 Officers to review existing licenses and seek to re- negotiate terms as per 11. 1 above where appropriate.</p>	<p>This is already in practice and is an ongoing matter for the Head of Property and Building Services. Liaison with Liaison Officers as necessary.</p> <p>As 11.1 above.</p>
<p>12. Review the Council's medium term planning strategy for dealing with the implications of 3 rd Generation (3G) Mobile Phones.</p>	<p>12. 1 Officers to carry out the review through the Local Forum</p>	<p>The TLO has provided advice to other officers in relation to the preparation of the Local Plan. There will be a need for ongoing input as the Plan progresses to adoption. Local Forum to be kept advised. Action Plan to be updated by TLO &amp; any changes discussed &amp; agreed by Forum.</p>

