

<b>Report Title:</b> Response to Scrutiny Review of Mobile Phone Mast Policy	
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Urban Environment	
<b>Wards (s) affected:</b> All	<b>Report for:</b> Non-Key Decision
<b>1. Purpose:</b> To note Progress on Procedures for dealing with Mobile Phone Mast proposals within the Borough.	
<b>2. Recommendations</b>  That Members review and agree the progress made in dealing with Mobile Phone Mast planning applications and related matters.	
<b>Report Authorised by:</b> <i>Paul Tomkins</i> P.P. Shifa Mustafa; Assistant Director, Planning Policy and Development	
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Paul Tomkins. Head of Development Control North. Tel. No; 020 8489 5167. e-mail; paul.tomkins@haringey.gov.uk;	
<b>3. Executive Summary:</b> The Report provides an update on progress to date following the Scrutiny Review of matters relating to Mobile Phone Masts of July 2006.	
<b>4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)</b> N/A	
<b>5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>	

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed a number of matters relating to the Policy and Procedures for handling proposals for Mobile Phone Mast installations within the Borough. This followed concern by some residents groups about the perceived increase in the number of such installations in certain parts of the Borough, in particular the Muswell Hill, Bounds Green, and South Tottenham areas; about installations near schools, and about possible long-term health risks.

2. 2007 was a relatively quiet year in terms of the Planning Services' involvement with Mobile Phone masts.

3. In accord with Government Advice, Officers met with representatives of the Mobile Phone operators in January of this year to discuss the "Roll-out Plan" that they had submitted the previous November. This is an indicative list of the areas or sites where the operators anticipate looking to place new installations to fill gaps in their coverage, over the forthcoming two or three years. Having the meeting does not in any way commit either side or imply that planning permissions will be granted.

4. In the event very few new proposals have come in the form of applications this year. Two new Full applications, and four 'Prior Notifications' have been submitted since January this year; total 6. (For comparison, previous years 2001 to 2006 ranged from 8 to 20 per year ).

None was particularly controversial in terms of resident objection; two were for additional masts or antennae on industrial sites in Tottenham which already have installations. One of the Prior Notifications on a Public House in Lordship Lane was withdrawn as Officers advised it was unlikely to be approved.

5. The main site to cause controversy was a MonoPole mast in Mount Pleasant Villas N4, which had been refused by the Council in 2006 but was allowed by the Planning Inspectorate on subsequent appeal. Residents sought to mount a Judicial Review of the Inspector's decision, but it is understood that they did not proceed with the Judicial review.

6. The MOA (Mobile Phone Operators ) have issued a further 'Roll-out' Plan in November this year, and it is expected that Officers will meet them again in the New Year.

7. There has been a gradual trend for Masts to be less visually obtrusive than say ten years ago; poles tend to be slightly lower and slimmer, with more use of poles designed to look like street lamp standards or telegraph poles, and continuing use of roof-mounted antennae. Large lattice-type masts are not now generally proposed.

8. The Planning Service keeps a Sites Register of Mobile Phone Mast sites; this is available on request, and in the New Year it is expected to be available on the Council's web-site.

9. A local resident in South Tottenham has engaged in considerable correspondence with the Council on a roof-mounted installation in Edgecote Grove; the outcome was that the Operators were requested to re-assess the existing ICNIRP compliance Certificate to take account of any changes in equipment on the roof. They did a re-assessment and issued a fresh certificate of compliance in July 2007.

10. Other points worthy of note were; (1)The Local Government Ombudsman issued a report on procedural problems with 'Prior Approvals' applications, in June 2007. Current practice in Haringey already adheres to the advice in this Report. (2) The Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research Programme ( a follow-up to the 'Stewart Report' of 2001 ) issued a report in 2007 which concluded that 'none of the research supported by the Programme and published so far demonstrates that biological or adverse health effects are produced by radiofrequency exposure from mobile phones.' However, further research is needed into possible long-term (i.e. over 10 years) exposure risks.

11. In summary; it has been a relatively quiet year in terms of Mobile Phone Mast applications; and applications are being dealt with in accord with established procedures and policies.

**SCRUTINY UPDATE**

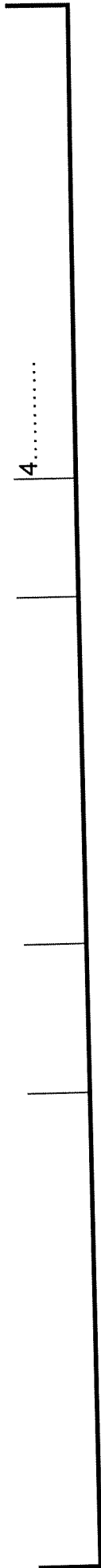
Scrutiny Recommendation and Executive Decision	Target Implementation Date	Who Responsible <small>(who and what)</small>	Implemented? <small>Yes/No*</small>	Service or Performance Improvement Measurable outcomes <small>This must be completed</small>
<p><b>Recommendation One</b> Government to be requested to make all proposals for new Mobile Phone Base stations to be the subject of a Full Planning Application instead of Prior Notification Procedure. <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	15.9.2006	Member services	To be advised	1 To be advised
<p><b>Recommendation Two</b> Operators to supply evidence of cell coverage to justify need. <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	From July 2006	Mobile Phone Operators; Planning service.	Yes	1. Evidence provided in planning applications.
<p><b>Recommendation Three</b> Operators to provide information on Beam of Greatest intensity <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	From October 2006	Mobile Phone Operators; Planning Service	In part	1.....One application did have information on Beam; others reluctant to supply as it is not essential to determining applications, since all applications comply with emission limits anyway . .
<p><b>Recommendation Four</b> Operators to provide better visual screening of antennae</p>	From July 2006	Mobile Phone Operators	In part	1..... Current installations are designed to be less intrusive, as resembling telegraph poles or street lamp poles.

(Agreed)

Last updated 29/7/05

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<p><b>Recommendation Five</b> To hold Annual Roll-Out meetings with operators</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>Oct 15 2006</p>	<p>Planning Service</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1..... Meeting held 10 January 2007 Next one to be held in January/February 2008. In view of the low number of applications for masts received in 2007 (six) this is a reasonable timescale.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Six</b> Meeting with interested groups after meeting with operators.</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>Six weeks after meeting with operators</p>	<p>Planning Service</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>2 Not organised. As noted above there have been relatively few applications submitted in 2007</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Seven</b> Site Notices for all Mobile Phone base station applications</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>Oct 2006</p>	<p>Planning Service</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1... Implemented</p>
<p><b>Recommendation Eight</b> Increased consultation area</p> <p><i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>October 2006</p>	<p>Planning Service</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Implemented.</p>



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<b>Recommendation Nine</b> Response to Prior Approvals by 56 <sup>th</sup> day (Agreed )	July 2006	Planning Service	Yes	1 Being carried out.
<b>Recommendation Ten</b> Decision on whether to approve Lamp-post swap types of installation (Agreed)		Street scene; Planning Service	Yes, in part.	1... There are some street side mast installations in place, e.g. Aylmer Road, Hampstead Lane..
<b>Recommendation Eleven</b> Maintain Mast register (Agreed )	July 2006	Planning Service	Yes	1 Mast Register in place and available electronically.
<b>Recommendation Twelve</b> Ask Radio Communications Agency to monitor for emission levels. (Agreed)	October 2006	Environment Directorate	No	1 No general request to Environment Agency made. A specific request made on one specific site in South Tottenham to the Mobile Phone Company to resurvey emissions in the light of any changed installations. This was done.



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<b>Recommendation Thirteen</b> Ask District Valuer to assess/collect business rates (Agreed)	Sept 2006	Finance	Yes	1.....Being progressed
<b>Recommendation Fourteen</b> Ensure Finance Service collects all rates and rents (Agreed)	October 2006	Finance	Yes	1..... Being progressed
<b>Recommendation Fifteen</b> Operators to comply with their ten commandments (Agreed )	July 2006	Mobile Phone operators	Yes	1..... The Operators do comply with these in terms of assessing risk and carrying out pre-application notification to Schools, Ward Members, and Planning Office.