

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee***On 16 January 2006*

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of Mobile Phone Masts – Chairs Position</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Manager – Trevor Cripps</b>
<b>Wards effected:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>1. Purpose</b>	To approve the membership, scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review of Mobile Phone Masts.
<b>2. Recommendations</b>	<p>2.1 That the Committee re-confirm the proposed scope and terms of reference.</p> <p>2.2 That the Committee appoint a new Chair for the review from amongst its membership, due to Councillor Bull stepping down as Chair.</p>
<b>Report authorised by:</b>	<b>The Chief Executive – Max Caller</b>
<b>Contact officer:</b>	<b>Carolyn Banks</b>
<b>Telephone:</b>	<b>020 8489 2965</b>

### **3. Access to Information:**

#### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 -Background Papers**

Joint Report of Director of Environmental Services, Director of Housing, Overview and Scrutiny Manager and Health and Safety Manager to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2004 on Mobile Phone Masts.

For access to the background papers or any further information please contact Carolyn Banks on 020 8489 2965

### **4 Background**

On 22 November 2004 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a full report on mobile phone base stations. One of the issues dealt with in this report was the suggestion that mobile phones and base stations could be hazardous to health. However the Government have accepted responsibility for dealing with health issues and have received advice from experts that base stations do not constitute a health risk. The Committee recommended that current planning consultation procedures should be reviewed and subsequently decided to make it the subject of a scrutiny review.

### **5. Membership of the Review**

#### **Initial Membership**

Cllr Gideon Bull (Chair)

Cllr Dhiren Basu

Cllr. Wayne Hoban

1 vacancy

At the Review Panel Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005 the Chair of the Review Panel Councillor Bull declared an interest.

He advised that, “his employing company had recently been taken over by a company with business interests in the mobile phone market. They were not one of the five operating companies. He would be taking further advice on whether he needed to update the public register of Members interests to make his position perfectly clear or to make a further statement.”

Upon receiving further advice from the Council’s Legal Department, Councillor Bull has declared that his interest could be regarded as prejudicial and personal and has therefore stepped down as Chair of this scrutiny review.

Under the Council's Constitution Part 1.2, Section 7 (c), "Chairs of Scrutiny review Panels will be drawn from among the Councillors sitting on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may appoint any person as it considers appropriate as Chair, having regard to the above and with regard to the objective of cross-party chairing in proportion to the political balance of the Council."

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs therefore to appoint a new Chair for the Scrutiny Review Panel on Mobile Phone Masts, from amongst its current membership.

## **6. Review Progress**

Attached at Appendix A is the scope and terms of reference for the review. Sections 3a, 3b and 3d, have been covered in meetings held on 25 November, 19 December 2005 and 13 January 2006.

# SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MOBILE PHONE MASTS

## SCOPE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Aims of the Review

To ensure that the Council complied with Government guidance for consulting on planning applications for mobile phone base stations.

### 2. Terms of Reference

To review existing consultation processes for mobile phone base stations in Haringey to ensure they complied with the Government's planning policy guidance

### 3. Methodology

It is proposed that the review will be undertaken by:-

- a) Receiving a presentation from the Environment Service on the current planning and consultation process
- b) Receiving evidence from local residents and interest groups on the planning and consultation processes
- c) Examining other Council's consultation processes
- d) Meeting with the Mobile Operators Association on consultation processes.

### 4. Key Stakeholders

Environmental Services  
Executive Member for Environment and Conservation  
Local Community groups

## 5. Timescale

The timescale for this review will be extremely tight. It is therefore proposed to limit the review to a maximum of three meetings with the final report being presented to the Overview and Scrutiny review meeting in March 2006.

<b>SCRUTINY REVIEW TIMETABLE</b>	
<b>Review Stage</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
1. Public Consultation meeting	Took place on 19 December 2005
2. Meeting with Mobile Operators Association	Took place on 13 January 2006
3. Issues paper to consider main aspects of the review	Late January 2006
4. Scrutiny Review meeting to discuss conclusions	Late Jan/Early February 2006
5. Draft report and agree final version for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	March 2006