Local Development Framework

Telecommunications Development Supplementary Planning Document

May 2009

SPD

Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

Foreword

Supplementary Planning Document

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Foreword

Concerns are often expressed in local communities over the impact of telecommunications masts, cables and other equipment, both in terms visual impact on the townscape and the landscape, but also over possible impact on people's health. Having an effective national infrastructure for telecommunications is however a critical part of a prosperous and healthy economy and benefits all.

The Council needs an appropriate local framework for telecommunications development and therefore this supplementary planning document (SPD) provides detail about the Council's planning approach towards such developments in the Borough.

It is intended for use by developers, applicants for planning permission, Council planning officers, Plans Board and the general public and will be a material planning consideration when the Council determines planning applications for telecommunications development.

Councillor Stephen Bentley

Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment

About this document

This document sets out detailed guidance on the consideration of planning applications for telecommunications development by Telford & Wrekin Council. All planning applications are judged against Policy T21 of the Wrekin Local Plan (currently a saved policy in the Telford & Wrekin Local Development Framework), together with national Planning Policy Guidance 8 'Telecommunications' (PPG8).

This document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. As a Supplementary Planning Document, this guidance will form part of the Local Development Framework and as such will be a material consideration in the determination of any future planning applications for telecommunications equipment.

Two phases of consultation and a Sustainability Appraisal have been undertaken during the preparation of this document. Further documents summarising these processes and their outcomes are available on the Telford and Wrekin Council website: http://www.telford.gov.uk or from the Development Plans Team on 01952 384241.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The new Regional Spatial Strategy identifies Telford as a regional growth point. This growth in population and employment requires effective and comprehensive telecommunications development across the Borough. This has in addition been coupled to changing working practices. These have resulted in more work being done from home, while travelling or in other locations away from traditional work places. Outside the work environment there has also been an increase in the demand for people, wherever they are, to keep in contact with family and friends as well as to access a wide range of entertainment media.

1.2 The Council Vision is for “a successful, prosperous and healthy community which offers a good quality of life for all the people of Telford & Wrekin that reflects the needs and opportunities of the 21st Century”. In order to achieve this vision and a successful modern community a good telecommunications infrastructure throughout the Borough is essential.

1.3 This need for an ideal telecommunications network is balanced against the physical impact of the masts and equipment upon the environment and the very real concerns that the general public have over the siting and design of the masts as well as the impact that this telecommunications equipment may have upon public health.

2 Background

2.1 The adopted Wrekin Local Plan (February 2000) contains a single Telecommunications Policy – Policy T21 which is currently saved and will in due course be replaced by a new Policy in the Council's Local Development Framework.

Policy T21 states:-

"Subject to balancing the need for telecommunications systems and the need to protect amenity and the environment, in accordance with PPG8, the Council will grant planning permission for telecommunications developments provided that the applicants have provided evidence that they have made every effort to erect the apparatus on existing buildings, masts, or other structures, and where possible, shared apparatus with other operators.

In addition, any development should be designed and sited to minimise its visual impact, especially in designated areas, such as the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and should contain appropriate mitigating measures. The Council will resist further telecommunications development at the Wrekin and Ercall Hills and will seek to encourage the use of a single mast to serve the major telecommunication needs at the Wrekin. The Council will require that all masts be removed when they are no longer required."

2.2 The information provided in this document will also support the implementation of Policy CS9 'Accessibility and Social Inclusion' in the LDF Core Strategy. Policy CS9 seeks to "promote the advancement of telecommunications whilst minimising their social economic and environmental impact".

2.3 Following the adoption of Policy T21, in 2000, National Government policy in the form of Planning Policy Guidance 8 (PPG8) was published in August 2001. This sets out how Local Planning Authorities should assess proposals for network development. PPG8 encourages Local Planning Authorities to respond positively to telecommunications proposals while protecting the environment from visual intrusion.

2.4 Then in 2002 a Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development was issued. This document was produced jointly by representatives of national and local government and the mobile phone industry. The Code builds on the revised PPG8 and provides practical advice on the siting and design of telecommunications development in order to minimise environmental impact and visual intrusion. It encourages a standardised practice for considering telecommunications development.

2.5 While over the period since this date there has been a stable statutory and policy base for the consideration of telecommunications planning proposals, there has been a considerable amount of activity in the Courts as well as by Planning Inspectors in dealing with a range of planning decisions. This coupled with the way telecommunications companies have evolved and expanded, their services presents new challenges for the development of the telecommunications infrastructure within the Borough.

2.6 In response to these changes the Council considers that additional information needs to be made available in support of Policy T21 and CS9.

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2 Background

2.7 It is proposed that this document will provide additional guidance to both operators/agents and members of public as to what forms of development are likely to be acceptable to the Council and which are not, to supplement Policy T21 in the Wrekin Local Plan and Core Strategy Policy CS9.

3 Planning Procedures

3.1 For planning purposes telecommunications development usually falls into one of three categories:

- Antenna and equipment which is permitted development and does not require an application to the Council for prior approval. The operator or mobile phone company may be required to notify the Council (Licence Notification)
- Installations and equipment or antenna which are permitted development and do not require a full planning application but do require prior approval (usually new ground-based masts or monopoles not exceeding 15 metres in height)
- Telecommunications development that requires a full planning application (and/or listed building consent) for example any new ground-based mast over 15 metres in height.

3.2 In addition there are also certain small base stations which can be de minimis and can therefore drop out of the planning process altogether. Examples of this are base stations with aerials that are located in garage forecourt signs or base stations with aerials designed to look like alarm boxes on the walls of buildings. Such base stations can be installed with no reference to the Local Authority.

The prior approval procedure

3.3 The prior approval procedure is set out in Part 24 of the Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order. Within certain size limits and subject to the submission of a 56 day determination application to the Council some telecommunications installations are permitted development and do not require a full planning application. The Council has received a significant number of these determination applications during the past few years as the mobile phone companies have 'rolled-out' their networks.

3.4 To get confirmation that a telecommunications installation is permitted development the mobile phone company (or Code System Operator) must apply to the Local Planning Authority before installing the apparatus, for a determination as to whether approval of the siting and appearance of the development is required. This is referred to as an application for prior approval.

3.5 Under the 56 day procedure the Council has 56 days to consider the siting and appearance of proposed telecommunications equipment. If the Council does not make a decision to give or refuse prior approval within the 56 day period the development is deemed to have been approved and can be implemented.

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4 Considering a Planning Application

Need

4.1 Ordinarily development proposals which are in accordance with the development plan policies should benefit from the presumption in favour of development conferred by Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This is reflected in para 54 of PPG8 which states that *"Planning authorities should have regard to any technical constraints on the location and proposed development. Material considerations include the significance of the proposed development as part of a national network. In making an application for planning permission or prior approval, operators may be expected to provide evidence regarding the need for the proposed development."* Where proposals are required to improve capacity of existing coverage the operator will be expected to provide details of the shortfall of capacity in relation to network demand.

4.2 The national policy states that each telecommunications system has different antenna types, siting needs & characteristics. An important principle within PPG8 is that Local Planning Authorities should not seek to prevent competition between different operators and should not question the need for the telecommunications system which the proposed development is to support. The Local Planning Authority can however question the need for a specific design of base station in a specific location

4.3 In any proposed location there may be a choice of suitable sites for a telecommunications installation. The applicants will be required to have demonstrated that the chosen equipment will be designed to minimise its impact on the visual amenity of the surrounding area.

Pre rollout/application discussions and consultations

4.4 In line with the advice within PPG8 the Council is committed to undertaking pre-rollout and pre-application discussions with operators. Pre application consultation with the Council's Development and Design Unit by operators and their agents at an early stage will allow service objectives, technical constraints and environmental implications to be discussed and understood. The Council considers that it would be useful for the operators/agents to involve other stakeholders within the community who may have an interest in the proposed development. This should include Town Councils, Parish Councils, the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership and other residential groups.

4.5 PPG 8 Para 8 also states that pre-development and pre-application discussions between operators should take place. The Council will encourage operators to consult with each other as were this to happen better shared solutions may become available.

4.6 At this stage operators will be expected, in line with the requirements of PPG8, to discuss the proposals with any nurseries, schools or colleges sited near to the proposal. The Council will in normal circumstances consider "near" to be within 200 metres of the development. This distance is not intended to be a definitive cut off point and therefore operators/agents may, if considered to be appropriate, also be requested to consult any nurseries, schools or colleges that lie beyond that distance. The operators/agents will be expected to submit details of such consultations with the relevant application at the submission stage.

4 Considering a Planning Application

4.7 The Code of Best Practice introduced the traffic light model for consultation. This briefly requires a potential site to be scored on two aspects: community issues and environmental impact. The score on both will determine which coloured area the site sits within. Green requires consultation with the Local Authority Planning Officers, amber and red will require consultation with at least a planning officer, ward members, Parish and Town Councils, consultation is also undertaken on Amber and Red sites with any identified local interest groups and individual residents where appropriate.

Alternative sites

4.8 Local Authorities and Operators/agents are advised in PPG8 to work together to find the optimum environmental and network solution on a case by case basis. The solution in each case will depend upon the specific site circumstances.

4.9 At this stage all potential alternative sites should be examined, as whether alternative sites exist will be a material consideration in the determination of any subsequent planning appeal. These alternatives could include:

- mast sharing
- site sharing
- the use of existing buildings, structures or pylons.

Mast sharing

4.10 Mast sharing involves the use of one mast for the equipment and antenna of more than one operator. It may be the case that for two or more operators to share an installation this will require an increase in height of the existing mast or monopole. This may result in the mast being more visually intrusive and this should be taken into consideration when assessing whether a shared mast would be the optimum environmental solution.

Site sharing

4.11 A site sharing situation would involve more than one (usually ground-based) mast on the same site. This kind of installation is unlikely to be acceptable in residential or suburban areas unless the site is adequately obscured from the surrounding area. It may be appropriate in some rural situations where there are suitable trees or other features which could mitigate the visual impact of the masts.

Use of existing buildings, structures or pylons

4.12 The use of existing buildings, structures or masts can in some cases limit the environmental impact of the proposal. The Council does accept that due to technical constraints, including the suitability of existing masts and structures to hold additional equipment, sharing will not always be feasible. In addition it may be that the upgrading of an existing mast may have a more prominent environmental impact than the installation of a new structure. Operators/agents will when submitting proposals for new masts have to clearly demonstrate that existing masts and structures have been considered and to give full justification as to why it is not appropriate to have sited the proposal on an existing mast or structure.

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4 Considering a Planning Application

4.13 Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to maintain a register of applications and determinations for telecommunications installations in their area. Such a register could assist the operators in selecting sites for further installations. At Telford & Wrekin the '**mast register'** is also available to the public and will include a map of the urban area of Telford which should provide a ready means of illustrating the extent of the telecommunications infrastructure network across the area. The register will include:- sites where permission has been granted, sites where permission has been refused, sites that are the subject of current appeals and sites where there is a current application. The register will include, for each of these sites, details of the operator, structure height and type and base station type (e.g. 2G or 3G). It is intended that this Register will be available on the Council website.

Siting and appearance

4.14 The most obvious way to address the visual impact of telecommunication development is to site it in such a way that it blends into or is hidden by existing landscape/townscape. However one of the elements that will reflect the siting and design of telecommunications infrastructure is the technological constraints faced by the operators. Operators will be required to justify their chosen design in terms of the following factors:

- The height of the site in relation to surrounding land
- The existence of topographical features and vegetation
- The effect on the skyline or horizon
- The site when observed from the side including when viewed from outside the Authority's own area.
- The site in relation to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other such areas designated for their landscape or conservation value.
- The site in relation to existing masts, structures or buildings, including historical or traditional buildings

Design criteria and considerations

4.15 Paragraph 24 of PPG8 states that 'In seeking to arrive at the best solution for an individual site, authorities and operators should use sympathetic design and camouflage to minimise the impact of development on the environment. Particularly in designated areas, the aim should be for apparatus to blend into the landscape.' Particular attention will therefore be given to the following:-

4.16 Nature and design of the proposed telecommunications installation - whether it is a ground-based monopole or lattice mast or equipment located on an existing building. Also need to consider the size and appearance of ancillary equipment.

- Existence of tree cover, planting and soft landscaping
- Is there a backdrop of trees to the site or can a new mast be located within trees – both may provide suitable sites
- Would a new installation 'break the skyline' in an inappropriate or sensitive location or view. The aim should be to preserve the skyline and roofscapes where these contribute to the character of the area.

4 Considering a Planning Application

- Relationship of telecommunications equipment to existing street furniture. New ground-based masts in the street should be similar in character and appearance to existing street furniture – slimline 'streetworks' monopoles are usually appropriate in urban locations. Masts designed for dual use, eg. street lighting or CCTV columns may also be considered, particularly where a more innovative solution is required such as in a conservation area.
- Painting monopoles and their associated ground equipment in an appropriate colour to mitigate the visual impact of the installation

Health considerations and perception of harm

4.17 The general public have become increasingly aware of the presence of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) in the environment. There have also been increasing concerns that exposure to EMFs may have adverse effects on health with both the Health Protection Agency and the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) publishing guidelines on limiting exposure to radio waves. As a result in 1999 Central Government asked the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) to set up an independent expert group on mobile phones (IEGMP). This produced the Stewart Report in May 2000 which concluded that:

"The balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines. However, there can be indirect adverse effects on their well being in some cases".

4.18 As a result of the Stewart Report the Government has taken the view that if a proposal conforms with the guidelines for exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) as identified by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection, it should not be necessary for the issue to be considered further.

4.19 Notwithstanding these findings and upon the evidence to date, the general public still continue to express concern arising from their perception about the potential harm to health arising from mobile phone base stations. These health matters and public concerns have been established through the Courts as material considerations in determining applications for planning permission and prior approval. However it remains for the Local Authority to determine what weight to attach to such considerations when determining any particular case.

4.20 Central Government has set out its clear view on this issue in para 98 of PPG8. This states *"however, it is the Governments firm view that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains central Governments responsibility to decide what measures are necessary to protect public health. In the Government's view, if a proposed mobile phone base station meets the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for a local planning authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them."*

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4.21 This policy has been tested in numerous appeals and through the High Court. To date no appeals by operators have been dismissed where perceived health effects were the main issue. Similarly although the application of this policy has been subject to challenge in the High Court, no decision granting permission for a mast has been quashed by the High Court where this policy has been applied.

4.22 The 'precautionary approach' recommended by the Stewart Report is now effectively built in to the current standardised procedures for dealing with applications for telecommunications development. All planning applications and determinations must include an 'ICNIRP Declaration' that the emissions from a mast or monopole will be in compliance with the ICNIRP guidelines for public exposure.

5 Area Specific Guidance

Residential areas

5.1 Within and immediately adjoining residential areas further substantial lattice masts for telecommunications equipment will not usually be allowed due to their appearance and height. An exception to this may be where a smaller, 'slimline' lattice is acceptable, particularly where the mast can be satisfactorily screened.

5.2 'Streetworks' or 'slimline' monopoles may be acceptable in residential areas provided they are not unduly prominent in the street scene. For telecoms installations to be allowed in residential areas where the impact of the equipment on the street scene is an important consideration, where possible the installation should appear as an unobtrusive addition, in keeping with the scale and appearance of the existing street furniture. The installation should not, by reason of its location and design, add significantly to the existing street 'clutter' to be found in a particular location. In certain locations and circumstances the associated equipment cabinets in their own right can be particularly intrusive and preclude that site being acceptable.

5.3 Operators will be expected to examine alternatives to establishing new ground-based masts, including the use of existing buildings. However, it is accepted that the nature of the 'townscape' in some residential areas of Telford does not always lend itself to the siting of telecommunications equipment. Telford does not have a large number of residential 'tower blocks' and in any case their rooftops may not necessarily be available for telecommunications installations, however the Council will expect operators to explore such sites if possible.

5.4 Antenna on existing buildings will be acceptable particularly where this solution would avoid additional ground-based masts and where there would be little significant effect on the appearance of the building. The Council will look at the accumulation of equipment on the roofs of certain buildings with a view to preventing excessive clutter. Equipment on existing buildings should be sited and designed to minimise the visual effect when viewed from adjoining properties and the street. In addition the Council will encourage operators at the outset to design their installations on building rooftops to allow the rooftop to be shared by other operators equipment.

5.5 When considering the visual impact of a proposed mast or monopole on adjoining residential or other occupied properties then usual planning considerations will be applied in order to determine the acceptability of a particular installation. It is normal to allow extensions, new dwellings and other development near to housing subject to its appearance and visual effect being acceptable. The proximity of telecommunications installations to residential property is not a material planning consideration unless a particular installation would have a significant effect, due to its siting and appearance, on visual amenity.

Industrial and commercial areas

5.6 Lattice masts as well as monopoles will generally be acceptable in established industrial areas provided that the installation is not of such a scale and height that it would significantly detract from visual amenity in the surrounding area.

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5 Area Specific Guidance

5.7 In some industrial estates where there is established landscaping contributing to amenity then proposals for telecommunications installations will be expected to respect and where possible enhance the incidental environment of the area. Fenced compounds for ground equipment cabinets will also be acceptable.

Town / District Centres

5.8 Taller buildings, rooftops, and other structures within town and district centres may provide acceptable locations for telecommunications installations and antenna where there is little impact on the street scene. In addition the Council will encourage operators at the outset to design their installations on buildings, rooftops and structures to allow them to be shared by other operators equipment.

5.9 Applications for such installations will be considered favourably provided that the proposal would not significantly harm or alter the external appearance and character of the existing building, would not result in an unacceptable amount of rooftop 'clutter' and would not result in an unacceptable level of visual intrusion for adjoining properties, and in particular residential accommodation.

5.10 As set out above, ground-based 'slimline' monopoles may be acceptable in town / district centre locations provided that the equipment would not be out of character with existing street furniture, or add significantly to the existing street 'clutter' and would not be visually intrusive in a particular location.

5.11 Lattice towers and large monopoles will generally not be acceptable in town or district centre locations unless the operator can provide convincing evidence that the technical requirement for that design outweighs any harm to visual amenity which may result.

Conservation areas and listed buildings

5.12 Telecommunications installations in environmentally sensitive areas may well be proposed by mobile phone operators in order to provide their network coverage. The Council will require telecommunications development in Conservation Areas or on or near Listed Buildings, the site and setting of Scheduled Monuments (and other nationally important archaeological remains), and the Ironbridge World Heritage Site to be particularly sympathetic in terms of its design and appearance and this may require innovative solutions from the operators. Development should not detract from the character of the area or the setting of a Listed Building. Locating equipment on less sensitive buildings or structures may be an acceptable solution but will still require an appropriate design to disguise or screen the equipment in order to minimise its visual impact.

Playing fields

5.13 When masts are sought to be located within playing fields or adjacent to playing fields, care should be taken not to position them within pitches, behind goal areas or within appropriate safety run off areas. Consideration should be given to the range of sports that a playing field may sustain throughout the year, which may not be immediately apparent. A playing field used for football in the winter, for example, may also be used for cricket in the summer and the appropriate area of use will differ. Consideration

5 Area Specific Guidance

should also be given for the need to rotate pitches and the possible future need for additional pitches. Masts should therefore not be positioned in such a way to prevent pitch rotation or additional sports pitches being formed. When submitting a proposal that affects a playing field, a plan indicating all existing pitch layouts will be required as part of the planning application.

Development and flood risk

5.14 A short Flood Risk Assessment will be required for development in flood Zone 2 (medium risk) and Flood Zone 3 (high risk) and will need to address the following issues:

- there should be no interference to flood flow
- there should be no loss of flood storage (e.g. including raised ground,)
- there should be no development within an 8 m buffer strip on each side of a watercourse, or a flood defence including fences, raised ground etc, to allow access for maintenance, to provide for flood flow and storage and to provide a biodiversity corridor.

5.15 PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk states that installations required to be operational during flooding such as those associated with police, ambulance and fire stations and command centres are classified as “highly vulnerable” (see Table D2) and an Exception Test would be required for Flood Zone 2 (see Table D3). The council considers mobile phone communication infrastructure as falling within the highly vulnerable category and consequently an Exception Test will be required for applications falling within Flood Zone 2 and 3b (if proposed falls within zone 3a highly vulnerable uses should not be permitted) .Developers should ensure that essential services are located above the 1 in 1000 year flood level. This is in order to protect the services with regard to future climate change.

5.16 Pollution prevention - Intrusive developments into ground should avoid causing pollution by mobilisation of contaminants and a brief site investigation may be necessary in vulnerable soils/geology to enable assessment of the risk to be made.

Rural Area

5.17 This guidance applies to the rural area as well as Telford and Newport. In these areas the Council will refer to landscape character assessments in determining the visual impact and appropriate mitigation measures of the proposed development, particularly within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In accordance with Policy T21 of the Wrekin Local Plan, the Council will resist further telecommunications development at the Wrekin and Ercall Hills.

'Proliferation' of masts

5.18 Sometimes where there are no suitable tall buildings or structures in an urban area this may result in multiple applications for free-standing masts in a locality. The Council will seek to prevent the proliferation of monopoles, particularly in residential areas where the cumulative impact of a number of installations in the same locality or along part of a highway would result in telecommunications development contributing to an accumulation of street ‘clutter’ which would have a detrimental impact on local

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visual amenity and the environment. It is recognised that clutter can be avoided by careful siting of proposed structures to take account of existing screening features. In circumstances which dictate the location of a number of masts in a cluster the operators should work together to submit comprehensive proposals for all the masts so that the site is designed to appear harmonious and minimise impact. The Council will encourage operators to use the 'Mast Register' referred to earlier.

Consultation

5.19 The consultation process is an important part of the Council's role in ensuring that local communities are aware of developments which may affect them. It is standard Council policy to consult all adjoining properties for every planning application where practical. Details are set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted as part of the Local Development Framework in May 2006. However the Council understands that telecoms development raises issues across a wider area, in particular in residential areas. Therefore, the Council will attempt to consult all properties within a 200 metre radius of a proposal for telecommunications development that is subject to a Prior Approval determination as well as a full planning application.

6 Conclusion

6.1 This document sets out the Council's approach to issues related to the installation of telecommunications equipment and ancillary matters within Telford and Wrekin. Therefore while the specific details of each proposal are important considerations, in all cases where the Council makes decisions relating to telecommunications equipment, the particular merit of each proposal will be considered against the background of the supplementary guidance contained within this Policy document.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

2G	The second Generation of GSM is the technology currently used in the operation of mobile phones at 900MHz and 1800MHz
3G	Third generation is the generic term used for the next generation of mobile communications systems. The new systems will enhance the services available today and will offer multimedia and internet access and the ability to view video footage. The third generation technology used in the UK is called UMTS. These services operate at 2200MHz.
Aerial/Antenna	A device which transmits and receives radio waves. There are different designs in operation including Omni-directional antennas, sectored antennas and dual/tri band antennas.
Base Station	This is a macrocell, microcell or picocell site and consists of radio transmitters and receivers in a cabinet or cabin connected to antennas by feeder cable.
Cell	A geographical area over which a radio base station transmits and receives radio signals to and from customers to provide service coverage.
Dish Antenna	Dish Antenna operate on a line of sight basis and transmit and receive highly focussed radio waves in one direction only. They usually have the function of linking base stations to a base control site. It is usually by this means that a base station is integrated in to the wider network.
Electromagnetic waves	Electromagnetic waves are emitted by many natural and man made sources. Electromagnetic waves are used to transmit and receive signals from mobile phones and their base stations. The type of electromagnetic waves mobile phones use is called radio frequency (RF) waves/fields.
Frequency	Frequency is the number of times per second at which an electromagnetic wave oscillates. It determines the waves properties and usage . Frequencies are measured in Hertz(Hz).
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications is the international, Pan-European operating standard for the new generation of digital cellular mobile communications. It enables mobile phones to be used across national boundaries.
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection is an independent scientific organisation responsible for providing guidance and advice on the health hazards of non-ionising radiation exposure.
IEGMP	Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones chaired by William Stewart and also known as the Stewart Report. This was published in May 2000.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

Macrocell	Main type of telecommunications transmitter providing the framework for a code system operators coverage. They are designed to provide coverage of up to 35km but this depends upon terrain and surroundings.
Mast	A ground based structure that supports antennas at a height where they can satisfactorily send and receive radio waves. A typical mast is 15 metres high and of a steel lattice or tubular steel construction.
Microcell	Transmitters designed to boost coverage over small areas already covered by a macro cell transmitter typically 500 – 800 metres.
MOA	Mobile Operators Association established in 2003 represents the five UK mobile phone network operators on radio frequency health and planning issues.
Non-ionising Radiation	Radiation that does not contain sufficient energy to alter the structure of human cells. It is a form of energy produced by many forms of mobile communication transmitters, including mobile phones and TETRA
NRPB	National Radiological Protection Board is a statutory body whose responsibilities including the acquisition of knowledge about the protection of mankind from radiation hazards, and the provision of information and advice to persons and organisations (including Govt Departments) with responsibilities in the UK in relation to the protection from radiation hazards either of the community as a whole or of particular sections of the community.
Ofcom	Office of Communications is the regulator for the UK communications industry.
Picocell	Smallest of the mobile phone transmitters used mainly to boost coverage within buildings.
PPG8	Planning Policy Guidance note 8 sets out the Governments policies and guidance on telecommunications development.
Radiation	The emission of transfer of radiant energy as particles, electromagnetic waves, sound etc.
Radio frequency radiation	Electromagnetic radiation used on telecommunications and found in the electromagnetic spectrum at longer wavelengths than infrared radiation.
Radio Waves	An electromagnetic wave of radio frequency that allows the transmission of signals at set frequencies over distance.
Thermal effects	Effects due to the dissipation of energy into heat by the attenuation of radio waves.
Transmitter	Electromagnetic equipment that generates radio frequency electromagnetic energy and is connected to an antenna via a feeder gable.

Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms

Wavelength	Distance between two successive points of a periodic wave in the direction of propagation, in which the oscillation has the same phase. Measured in units of metres.

Appendix 2 Related Documents

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 Telecommunications

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg8

Stewart Report

http://www.jegmp.org/uk/report/index.htm

Code of Best Practice:Mobile Phone Network Development

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/codemobilenetwork

Wrekin Local Plan

http://www.telford.gov.uk/Environment+and+planning/Planning/

TelecommunicationsSupplementaryPlanningDocuments.htm

LDF Core Strategy Submission Development Plan Document