



HILLINGDON
LONDON



Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee

Councillors on the Committee

Michael Markham (Chairman)
Susan O'Brien (Vice-Chairman)
Jazz Dhillon (Labour Lead)
Shirley Harper-O'Neill
Judy Kelly
June Nelson
David Payne
David Yarrow

Date: WEDNESDAY, 7
DECEMBER 2011

Time: 5.30 PM

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 4 -
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH
STREET, UXBRIDGE UB8
1UW

**Meeting
Details:** Members of the Public and
Press are welcome to attend
this meeting

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<http://lbh-modgov:9071/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=114&Year=2009>

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Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee

Terms of Reference

To perform the policy overview role outlined below:

1. conduct reviews of policy, services or aspects of service which have either been referred by Cabinet, relate to the Cabinet Forward Plan, or have been chosen by the Committee according to the agreed criteria for selecting such reviews;
2. monitor the performance of the Council services within their remit (including the management of finances and risk);
3. comment on the proposed annual service and budget plans for the Council services within their remit before final approval by Cabinet and Council;
4. consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision-maker on Key Decisions which relate to services within their remit (before they are taken by the Cabinet);

In relation to the following services:

1. culture, arts and sport including the provision and/or management of museums, art galleries, theatres, archives and local history activities, libraries, leisure centres, swimming pools and other like facilities;
2. lifelong learning;
3. community safety;
4. the provision, planning and management of parks and open spaces, allotments, cemeteries, pitches and other like facilities;
5. transport, highways and parking;
6. waste management and recycling;
7. conservation and biodiversity;
8. safety education;
9. licensing and registration;
10. trading standards;
11. consumer protection;
12. environmental health functions
13. planning and building control
14. the Council's planning policies (including the Unitary Development Plan and other plans for the use and development of land), Local Agenda 21 Strategy and Local Transport (Implementation Plan).

Policy Overview Committees will not investigate individual complaints.

Agenda

Chairman's Announcements

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declaration of Interest in matters coming before this meeting
- 3 To confirm that all items marked Part 1 will be considered in Public and that any items marked Part 2 will be considered in Private
- 4 To agree the minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 6
- 5 Review 1 - Witness Session 4 7 - 20
- 6 Forward Plan 21 - 38
- 7 Work Programme 39 - 40



Minutes

**RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

15 November 2011

**Meeting held at Committee Room 6 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW**

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Michael Markham (Chairman) Susan O'Brien (Vice-Chairman) Jazz Dhillon Shirley Harper-O'Neill Kuldeep Lakhmana David Payne Michael White David Yarrow</p> <p>Witnesses Present: Councillor John Hensley, Chairman of Central and South Planning Committee Councillor Eddie Lavery, Chairman of North Planning Committee James Rodger, Head of Planning, Consumer Protection, Sport & Green Spaces Boe Williams-Obasi, Senior Manager, Corporate Landlord</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Nadia Williams, Democratic Services</p>	
27.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Councillors Judy Kelly and June Nelson. Councillors Michael White and Kuldeep Lakhmana attended in their place.</p>	
28.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests notified.</p>	
29.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items on the agenda were marked as Part 1 and would be considered in public.</p>	
30.	<p>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2011 (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2011 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.</p>	

31.	<p>REVIEW 1 - WITNESS SESSION 3 (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed the following Councillors (Cllr) and Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr John Hensley • Cllr Eddie Lavery • James Rodger, Head of Planning, Consumer Protection, Sport & Green Spaces • Boe Williams-Obasi, Senior Manager, Corporate Landlord <p>Cllr Markham explained that the aim of this witness session was to focus on the Planning aspects relating to Telecommunications masts and equipment.</p> <p>Members asked the witnesses what they believed the issues were with respect to Planning, and what might be the solutions.</p> <p>Cllr Lavery advised that alleged health issues had no influence on planning decisions relating to telecommunication masts. He suggested that one of the growing concerns of residents was the fact that the equipments were getting larger and bulkier resulting in visual intrusion and clutter. The cabinets at 2metres wide and 6ft tall and adding more than one on the pavement was becoming a growing concern, as these were appearing on pavements where residents were already struggling to walk on.</p> <p>Cllr Lavery said that currently there was little evidence on applications to show that alternative sites had been investigated and that such evidence would be welcomed to demonstrate that other sites were being investigated. Evidence to show that more mast share as well as the sharing of cabinet space would also be welcomed; otherwise there would be an increase in the pavements continuing to be cluttered. Many of the cabinets appeared to be green and large and out of character on some high streets and suggested that it would be good to see cabinets that reflected and in keeping with the area. Cllr Lavery expressed concerns about the continual increase in the size of the new cabinets.</p> <p><i>Members asked whether choosing the design of the cabinet was something that the Planning Committees would consider.</i></p> <p>Cllr Lavery said that there was a range of alternative designs in the pre-application process where operators could be guided and it would be helpful if there was a good range of alternative designs. However, the present position was that submitted applications must be either accepted or turned down. There was currently no variation regardless of the point at which decisions on the applications were made.</p> <p>Cllr John Hensley stated that there was a noticeable variance between the locations of telecommunications mast applications submitted to the Planning Committees. Applications to Central & South Planning Committee tended to be for location at the top of buildings (as the south of the borough was more built up compared to the North of the borough). To take account of this, often conditions to prevent antennas</p>	<p>Action by</p> <p>James Rodger</p>
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being placed on buildings were required to be imposed, as consideration of the skyline was equally as important as the street scene.

James Rodger advised that an application rejected at the pre-application stage was responded to positively by the operator who had suggested that other sites would be looked at (Vodafone).

The Committee requested clarification from officers, as to what the recommended width should be on the pavement.

James explained that officers from the Highway Team would be better placed to respond to this issue and advised that all telecommunications applications were required to go through Highways before a decision could be made.

Cllr Hensley suggested that the Planning Department would need to give some guidelines, as at present, conditions were being imposed for when technology was no longer required to be removed, but there was currently no indication as to when it could be decided that it was no longer required. The meeting was advised that there should be a drive to get companies to work with other outlets to utilise already available equipments. Adding that the Planning Committees could do nothing with applications submitted with bad designs, Cllr Hensley agreed that it would be helpful to have a choice of designs.

The Committee asked whether the Planning Committee had any input or say in design issues.

Cllr Lavery considered that if Hillingdon was to take a radical stand, it would lead to appeals. However, if other local authorities were to be involved in taking a Pan-London approach, there would be a greater chance of success.

James Rodger advised that the Planning Department could produce guidelines that were more prescriptive, however, the new draft National Planning Framework provided zero guidance, resulting in a vacuum. Cllr Hensley said that one of the points that should be included in the guidelines was the recommendation that the Council would expect operators to give reasons why in their opinion, site coverage in suggested areas were not acceptable.

Boe Williams-Obasi explained that the Corporate Landlord was tasked with managing the land, properties and assets owned by Council, which were managed as a corporate resource. This was achieved with expertise from architects, and surveyors. It was noted that the process for reviewing assets was through the property governance meeting held once a month with the Leader, Cllr Ray Puddifoot, and Cllr Jonathan Bianco, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services. The idea of what to put forward to be reported to Cabinet was established at these meetings.

The Committee noted that operators may request to place masts on Council owned land and on top of Council owned properties for a rental

Nadia Williams,
Democratic Services

fee.

The Committee was concerned that Corporate Landlord might agree to lease land and place masts on Council owned properties without planning consideration.

Boe advised that she was aware only of two current mast agreements on Council owned sites and suggested that a tighter procedure could be put in place. It was noted that currently, any request would result in the Corporate Landlord investigating who owned the land and establishing what the future plans were for that land. The Corporate Landlord would want to protect the Council's interest by not allowing masts to be installed on land that the Council may wish to sell or develop later.

The meeting was informed that leases had a security of tenure and once agreed, tended to stay. One of the biggest issues highlighted was that under the Council Policy, the leases issued to providers were inside the Landlord and Tenants Act and therefore had security of tenure. It was explained that there was the option for the Council to change its policy and chose to issue these leases outside of the act. However, it was pointed out that the operators had statutory power in their own right and it would be very difficult to get them off Council land once they had been issued with a lease of any kind.

From the point of view of the Corporate Landlord, it was noted that the main point of assessment would be in focusing on the future potential for that piece of land in question. It would be difficult to establish an appropriate value to charge the mast providers, as this was a closed market and the rents charged were therefore not sufficiently transparent. The meeting heard that any decision to allow operators to operate from Council owned land would need to be one that would give value for money. In theory, the operator would need an agreement in principle to lease a land from the Council in order to be able to operate.

James Rodger suggested that the Corporate Landlord would have the opportunity to engage with operators at the Annual Roll-out meeting with the Planning Department, where operators discussed advanced plans and areas where they had siting problems. At the meeting (usually held in January), operators would ask the Council for an indication as to how their proposed sites were likely to be 'traffic lighted' and asked officers to give them an idea of possible suitable sites.

It was noted that BT did not attend this meeting in respect of their Broadband cabinet sites.

Boe advised that it was worth considering what message the Council would wish to send out, as in her opinion, it would be better not to have masts on Council sites, as more revenue could be gained from developments as opposed to masts. It was suggested therefore, that it may be better for there to be no Corporate Landlord representative at the Roll-out meetings.

The Committee noted that the main issue was that relating to the cabinets and these did not fall under Corporate Landlord. Also established was that the cabinets required planning permission only if they were sited in a conservation area.

Members asked whether there was any way that location of cabinets could be controlled.

James Rodger advised that the Draft National Policy Framework had only a brief reference to telecommunication.

During discussion the following points were made:

- The Planning Committees could not impose height restrictions on future developments, as this would be up to the operators.
- That the Planning Committees would welcome the cabinets being smaller and compact in terms of the visual impact on the street scene.
- The standard cabinets from BT should also be look at
- The Planning Committees considered each application on its merits.
- Officers could include conditions as a standard item to allow for removal graffiti on cabinets.
- Cabinets could be made more secure by covering them in plastic seals.
- Cable boxes as opposed to telecommunication boxes were usually prone to vandalism.
- Noted that operators were aware of the need for sharing equipments but that this was all dependent on financial implications.
- Only one appeal against a refusal had been made to date.
- Only approximately 6 applications a year had been received from operators to operate on Council land.
- Highlighted that if the Council was to publicise the availability of Council land, there would be an increased interest.
- Only two masts operating on Council land had leases generating £10,000 per annum.
- That it would be helpful to have a documented process for the number of telephones masts and cabinets in the conservation areas, as well as outside of the Conservation Areas.

The Committee acknowledged that the Council should develop its own Policy to fill the gaps from the Draft National Policy Framework.

The Chairman thanked the witnesses for attending the meeting and for providing valuable evidence for the Committee's review.

32.	ANNUAL SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUND REPORT - COMMITTEE UPDATE (<i>Agenda Item 6</i>)	Action by
	The Committee noted the Annual Safety at Sports Grounds update report.	

	Resolved – That the Annual Safety at Sports Grounds update report be noted.	
33.	<p>FORWARD PLAN (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Members asked to see the following reports scheduled for February 2012 in the Cabinet Forward Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Retailer Pilot – Decision to be made by Cabinet on 16 February 2012 • London Cycle Network Schemes and Cycling Initiative Schemes – Decision to be made by the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling. <p>Resolved</p> <p>The Committee agreed the Forward Plan.</p>	<p>Action by</p> <p>Nadia Williams, Democratic Services</p>
34.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12 (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>The Committee agreed the Work Programme for 2011/12.</p>	
35.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS (<i>Agenda Item</i>)</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed and thanked Councillors George and Judith Cooper for attending the meeting in respect of the report from the town twinning working party, which was due to be considered by Cabinet on 24 November 2011. The report had been circulated for information to Committee Members prior to the meeting, as RESPOC had initiated the original review into town twinning.</p> <p>It was noted that RESPOC was happy with the report requested that the Committee’s appreciation of the diligence and hard work of the working party be conveyed to Cabinet.</p> <p>Councillor George Cooper responded that the working party was grateful to RESPOC for giving them the opportunity to gather the views of various witnesses and feedback from representatives of the twinned authorities involved.</p> <p>Resolved – That RESPOC thanks the working party for their diligence in preparing this report and wholeheartedly support the recommendations made.</p>	
	The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 6.40 pm.	

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Nadia Williams on 01895 277 488. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.

Agenda Item 5

Review of Mobile Technology and Telecommunications Equipment in Hillingdon Borough and beyond: Witness Session 4

REASON FOR ITEM

To enable the Committee to gather evidence as part of their review of Mobile Technology and Telecommunications Equipment in Hillingdon Borough and beyond

INFORMATION

Aim of review

To look into the future growth of mobile telephone masts and ancillary equipment and the effects on the residents and environment of Hillingdon and beyond.

Terms of Reference

1. To explore the future of mobile phone technology, e.g. 4G/5G and the transmission facilities that will be required
2. To review the Council's existing planning policies on the installation of mobile phone masts generally, e.g. on roofs and specifically in relation to council owned premises;
3. To investigate the new generation of telecommunications and explore new designs of telecommunications masts;
4. To explore how local authorities liaise with mobile phone operators and their subsidiaries over mobile phone mast locations;
5. To investigate the appropriate use of phone masts in localities and their design within the local environment
6. To explore the views of residents, residents' associations and other key stakeholders who experience mobile phone masts in their vicinity or use mobile telephones, e.g. businesses.
7. To identify further opportunities for the sharing of mobile phone masts within the current regulatory framework
8. To examine best practice through information-sharing with other local authorities at home and overseas
9. To present the Committee's findings and any recommendations to Cabinet for consideration as Council policy.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. Question the witnesses as required.
2. Ask additional/supplementary questions as required.
3. Highlight issues for further investigation.

WITNESSES

For this witness session, Members will be focussing on the issues faced by Highways Engineers when approving telecommunications cabinets to be placed on highways. The Committee will be seeking clarification regarding

the policy and procedures of the placement of the cabinets, and whether cabinets are regularly inspected by Highways Engineers.

With this in mind, the Committee have invited Highways Officers from the London Borough of Hillingdon's Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services department to the meeting on 07 December 2011.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

1. Members to question the witnesses and identify issues for their review
2. Members to consider any written evidence provided
3. Members to discuss the evidence gathered to date on their review and note any potential draft recommendations.



HILLINGDON

LONDON

Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee Review Scoping Report 2011/12

OBJECTIVE

Review of Mobile Technology and Telecommunications Equipment in Hillingdon Borough and beyond

Aim of review

To look into the future growth of mobile telephone masts and ancillary equipment and the effects on the residents and environment of Hillingdon and beyond.

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1. To explore the future of mobile phone technology, e.g. 4G/5G and the transmission facilities that will be required
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8. To examine best practice through information-sharing with other local authorities at home and overseas
9. To present the Committee's findings and any recommendations to Cabinet for consideration as Council policy.

Reasons for the review

Although the demand for mobile and wireless products and services is increasing as technology develops and consumer demand increases, Hillingdon residents are increasingly concerned as to the escalating number of planning applications being received for larger masts and ancillary equipment and the effect these are having on the environment and landscape.

The review would investigate the following:

- views of resident and key stakeholders
- the future demand for mobile technology
- the effect on transmission facilities required
- how such technology could be shared by mobile phone operators
- how operators might be encouraged, by public opinion, or required, by regulation, to use such technology in such a way as to alleviate residents' concerns, particularly over their siting.

The review would also cover current national and local planning policies, including the Hillingdon policy dating from April 2007 following a Policy Overview Committee review: "Cabinet agreed that the moratorium is lifted and replaced with a more flexible policy that allows telecommunications equipment to be installed on Council owned property, land and buildings subject to each site being considered on an individual basis. We propose Cabinet asks officers to devise a suitable process for dealing with applications that ensures elected Members consider each site."

The review would focus primarily on 'environmental' effects rather than any health issues.

Supporting the Cabinet & Council's policies and objectives

It is hoped that this review will propose a better balance of regulation / control of mobile phone masts within local environments with the overwhelming public demand for such services, which will only grow into the future.

INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Key Issues

- Concerns about the increasing number of planning applications for larger masts and ancillary equipment and the effect these were having on the environment
- Investigating future design of telecommunication masts

Remit

- Phone mast operators
- Manufacturers of phone masts
- Current national and local planning policies
- The Hillingdon Policy (2007) following the review by the Policy and Overview Committee

Connected Policies

Hillingdon Planning Policies

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/index.jsp?articleid=12930>

Planning Policy Guidance 8: Telecommunications

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/ppg8?view=Standard>

Annual Roll-Out Plan

http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/excel/0/5/roll_out_plan_2010_to_2011.xls

Application form

http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/pdf/n/8/020_Application_for_Prior_Notification_of_Proposed_Development_by_Telecommunications_code_system_oper.pdf

EVIDENCE & ENQUIRY

Witnesses

The year long review by the Committee will take evidence from:

- Mobile Telecommunication Companies – Orange, O2, Vodafone, 3
- Mobile Operators Association
- Network Railways were replacing current systems and were installing masts – could ask for a representative to attend meeting
- The Airwave system currently used by emergency services for their own telephone network. We could ask them if they are going to be active in the future
- Apple
- BT
- Virgin Mobile
- BskyB
- Ofcom
- LBH ICT Service
- Birmingham City Council
- East Lincolnshire Council
- Haringey Council
- Greater London Authority
- Home Office
- Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce
- Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead telecommunications team
- European Union: Council for Communications
- LBH Local Development Framework team
- The Phone Mast Company
- Mobile Broadband Networks Limited
- Chairman of Hillingdon Planning Committees
- St Johns Church, Hillingdon
- Residents' Associations
- Bill Ogden, Corporate Landlord, as installation of mobile phones involves the use of Council land

Potential Lines of Enquiry

Technology

Should we be cautious of this new technology?
What happens if a household is near to several different transmitters at the same time?
What is a 'beam of greatest intensity'?
Isn't the difference that mobile phones use 'pulsed' radio waves?
Do mobile phone transmitters interfere with other electrical devices?
Do masts affect members of the public who wear pacemakers?
How much power is emitted by a phone mast?
What is the frequency of the radiation?
How do these figures compare with the radiation emitted by a domestic wireless router? And a mobile phone?
Where locally is there an example of a similar mast/flagpole already in operation that we could visit?
Can antenna be placed inside lampposts?
Do 3G phones use lower frequencies?

Science

What are radio waves?
Does 3G technology mean more masts? Or mast sharing?
What is the 'heating effect'?
How close do you have to be to experience the heating effect?
Shouldn't we use the precautionary approach in dealing with phone masts?
What research is there?
Does all this research suggest that the authorities are worried - and that we are right to be as well?
What is the difference between good and bad quality science?

Mast Locations

Do we need new masts?
How do you choose new sites?
Do you need agreement from the property owner?
Do you need planning permission?
What are the main issues on deciding on an application for a phone mast?
Is visual amenity and character of the area taken into consideration?
What is the radius for network around a phone mast?

General

What are telecommunications developments?
Do all telecommunications developments require permission?
How can I find out about any proposals for mobile phone masts near to me?
What are the main issues in deciding on an application for this type of development?

How do I comment on applications for mobile phone masts?
 Can I object to a mobile phone mast because of concerns over health impact?
 Can I find out where existing telecommunications masts or antennae are near to my home or work?
 What forms of mast sharing can take place?
 How much does a mast cost to manufacture?
 What is the time delay between gaining planning permission and placing a mast?
 Does European Law affect placement of masts within the UK?
 What are the advantages in placing a phone mast?
 Can signal boosters be used in place of phone masts?
 How do phone masts connect to the phone network?
 To what extent does phone mast placement affect house prices?

Information & Intelligence

Research into reviews already undertaken in this area by other local authorities

Consultation and Communications

Views of residents, residents associations and other stakeholders by SNAP survey online and emails

PROPOSALS

To be announced

LOGISTICS

Proposed timeframe & milestones *

Meeting	Action
26 July 2011	Agree Scoping Report
13 September 2011	Witness Session 1
6 October 2011	Witness Session 2
15 November 2011	Witness Session 3
7 December 2011	Witness Session 4
17 January 2012	Witness Session 5
15 February 2012	Conclusions and Recommendations
7 March 2012	Draft Final Report
10 April 2012	Agree Final Report

* Specific meetings can be shortened or extended to suit the review topic and needs of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

A mast is a freestanding structure which supports antennas at a height where they can transmit and receive radio waves. When you make a call, your mobile phone transmits a signal to the nearest base station; the signal is then

transmitted through mobile and fixed line networks to connect to the person receiving the call.

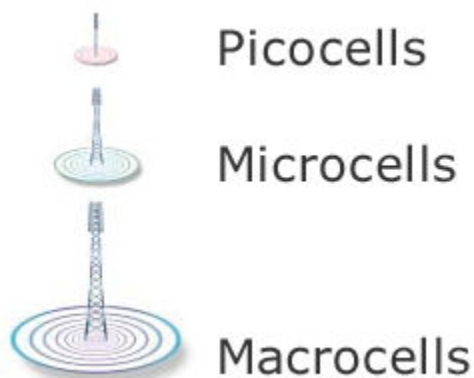
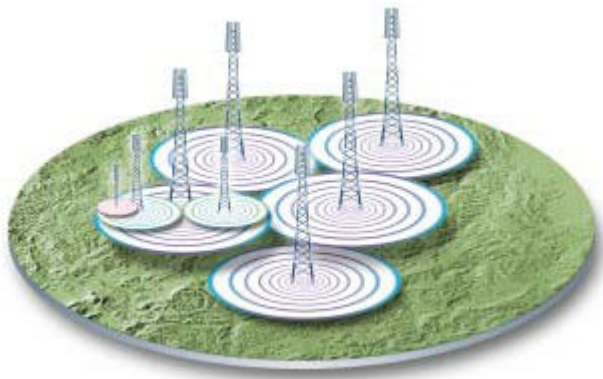
There are about 70 million mobile phones in use in the UK - more than one phone for every person. Many people have a work and a personal mobile, or a mobile and a laptop data card, and mobile phones are used in at least 85 per cent of all households.

This large number of mobile phones cannot work without the network infrastructure needed to route connections. And installations must be placed close to where people use their phones.

Government policy is to help the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems while minimising the environmental impact.

How mobile phone networks operate

A mobile phone must have a wireless connection to a base station in order to make a call. A base station is no more than a wireless telephone exchange, designed to provide local connections, with wider links to other national and international networks.





Each base station provides coverage over a limited area, or cell, in the area around the site. That's why in some countries mobile phones are called cell phones. To offer comprehensive network coverage, the cells must overlap each other like a patchwork quilt, so that users can move from one cell to another without breaking connection. As each cell can only handle a limited number of calls, the density of base stations has to be high in areas of heavy use.

The UK government received 22.6 billion pounds from selling the 3rd generation licences in 2000, and total mobile phone related tax revenue now exceeds 20 billion pounds per year. Neither Government nor industry wants to restrict the use of phones or the location of the base stations.

There are many factors that affect the signal levels at any location. These include the number of operators and systems; the tilt and angle of the antennas; the geography of the area and the distance the base-station needs to cover. Microwaves are reflected off flat surfaces. The level of microwaves in an area will depend on things like metal roofs, lamp posts and other structures, building materials and structural additions, cars and lorries, etc.

The only way to know for certain how a particular place, such as a house, flat, school or workplace, is affected by environmental microwave radiation is to measure the exposure.

There is a UK government website which has a reasonably accurate map of the masts currently integrated into the national network. Details are only put up when the mast is up and running. Ofcom, which maintains the site, depends on the phone operators to give them accurate information about the base station. They update the site every 3 months.

Some mobile phone operators are going to extraordinary lengths to conceal the masts that form their networks. They are being disguised as chimneys, clocks, windows, drainpipes, even as weathervanes, all in an effort to meet the demands of planning departments.

Controversy often surrounds applications to site phone networks. Mobile operators were recently barred from putting the masts close to schools in the UK; many parents had said they were worried about health and safety implications. But the number of masts around the country is set to increase, as networks upgrade to second and third generation mobile technologies.

Each British mobile network has about 8,000 cells, which means about as many masts, and the maximum size of a cell is 35km. In third generation (3G) mobile networks the cell can be a maximum of 8km wide, which means they need lots more masts.

Mobile abuse

Masts used to be about 30 metres high but as technology improves shrink. Some firms have used fake trees as masts which resembled Scots pines, put in the bird muck, the pollution, everything. The result is that phone masts become utterly invisible.

The support pole for the golden angel weathervane on Guildford Cathedral is actually a mobile mast and supports several antennas. In return for using the site, which sits on a hilltop and is a coveted location, the angel was regilded. The street sign for Northumberland Avenue in Westminster is also a plastic sign hiding a few antennas. Dotted around Britain are fake chimney pots, fake flagpoles, fake drainpipes and fake signs all made of glass-reinforced plastic and concealing mobile antennas.

At the Town Hall clock in Hungerford in Berkshire antennas are mounted at the centre of each of the four faces of the clock next to the hands. The four faces have been renewed and the clock hands themselves have been replaced with glass-reinforced plastic versions that have been balanced to ensure the clock keeps the right time.



Planning Laws

Equipment on masts over 15 metres high, and other limited, special circumstances, need full planning permission. Small additional changes do not need permission. Several companies can share a mast or site. Lower

height antennas, including those mounted on lamp-posts do not need full planning permission.

Press

- You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bADQQEpirAA>
- Facebook Groups
 - People against phone masts –
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17369597151#!/group.php?gid=17369597151&v=wall>
 - We hate phone masts disguised as trees –
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=2255669130>
 - Mobile Phone Masts -
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=105989366087911>
 - Phone Masts -
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=2255669130>

Officer Involvement

Head of Planning & Enforcement and Head of ICT to act as Lead Officers, guided closely by Democratic Services Officer.

Equality Implications

The Council has a public duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across protected characteristics according to the Equality Act 2010. Our aim is to improve and enrich the quality of life of those living and working within this diverse borough. Where it is relevant, an impact assessment will be carried out as part of this review to ensure we consider all of our residents' needs.

Related Work

Ofcom Sitefinder website

<http://www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk/>

RESPOC working group review on the siting of major telecoms equipment in the borough

http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/ctteedocs/other_decisions/telecoms_working/rep_telecoms_working_14mar07.pdf

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/media/pdf/h/9/telecom equip.pdf>

Birmingham City Council review

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/scrutiny-exchange/library/environment-and-planning/?id=904>

Haringey Council Review

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/scrutiny-exchange/library/environment-and-planning/?id=1132>

North East Lincolnshire Review

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/scrutiny-exchange/library/environment-and-planning/?id=441>

Stoke-on-Trent Review

[http://www.moderngov.stoke.gov.uk/Published/C00000407/M00002916/AI00016333/\\$coverreportMobilephonemastsreport.docA.ps.pdf](http://www.moderngov.stoke.gov.uk/Published/C00000407/M00002916/AI00016333/$coverreportMobilephonemastsreport.docA.ps.pdf)

Useful video:

http://www1.orange.co.uk/about/phone_masts/index_flash.html

Agenda/Minutes Documents

All public documents will be available for Councillors/Public/Press to view online or by contacting Democratic Services.

Definitions

Antenna

The part of the radio system through which a radio signal is transmitted and received.

Transmitter

The electronic equipment needed to generate and send radio waves which are fed to the antenna.

Mast

The structure that supports the antenna in a position high enough for signals to reach over a wide area.

Base station

Mast, transmitter, receiver, antenna and any other supporting equipment.

GSM

Global System for Mobile communications, the second generation (2G) digital technology originally developed for Europe but which now has in excess of 71 per cent of the world market.

3G

A new standard for mobile phones that will allow the transmission of much larger amounts of data - a type of mobile 'broadband'.

Microwave

Microwave means 'very small wave' and refers to the fact that radio signals in this band have shorter wavelengths - and higher frequencies - than long, medium or short-wave radio.

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FORWARD PLAN 2011/12

Contact officer: Natasha Dogra / Nadia Williams
Telephone: 01895 277488

REASON FOR ITEM

The Committee is required by its terms of reference to consider the Forward Plan and comment as appropriate to the decision-maker on key decisions which relate to services within its remit (before they are taken by Cabinet or Cabinet Member).

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- To comment on items going to the Cabinet or Cabinet Members for decision.
- Or to note the items and decide not to comment.

INFORMATION

The Forward Plan

1. The Forward Plan for the following months has been published. Those items that are within this Committee's remit are shown on the attached version of the Forward Plan. The Committee may wish to consider these items and comment to the decision-maker.
2. Committee Members are requested to send in any questions they have on any items in the attached Forward Plan or in the published Cabinet agenda and reports, and to request any officers that they wish to be present to give advice.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- To consider whether there are comments or suggestions that the Committee wishes to make that will aid Cabinet's decision-making.

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The Cabinet Forward Plan

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Report Title</i>	<i>Advance information</i>	<i>Ward(s)</i>	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents
SCH&H = Social Care, Health & Housing; CS = Central Services; PEECS = Planning, Environment, Education & Community Services								

Ref	Report Title	Advance information	Ward(s)	Report to Full Council	Cabinet Member(s) Responsible	Officer Contact	Consultation	Background Documents
SCH&H = Social Care, Health & Housing; CS = Central Services; PEECS = Planning, Environment, Education & Community Services								
Cabinet - 24 November 2011								
684	High Speed Rail Update	Cabinet will receive an update report on developments following the end of the Government's consultation on HS2.			Cllr Ray Puddifoot & Cllr Keith Burrows	PEECS - Jales Tippell		
687	Gift Funding for Planning Functions	This report to Cabinet considers any gift funding from developers to meet the Council's reasonable and justifiable costs associated with the discharging its planning function.	TBC		Cllr Keith Burrows	PEECS - James Rodger		
688	Former Belmore Allotment, Burns Close, Hayes	Cabinet will receive a report recommending the disposal and marketing of this site and that it be declared surplus to requirements.	Barnhill / Charville		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PEECS - Mohammad Lais		
689	Acol Crescent, South Ruislip	Cabinet will receive a report recommending the disposal and marketing of this site and that it be declared surplus to requirements.	South Ruislip		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PEECS - Mohammad Lais		
583	Town Twinning Arrangements	Following the Residents' & Environmental Services review on the matter, Cabinet requested a further report back from the Member/Officer Working Group with proposals for the future of Town Twinning.	All		Cllr Henry Higgins	PEECS - Lyn Summers / Glenda Greenfield	Member/Officer Working Group and consultation undertaken with twin towns and other stakeholders	

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564	West London Waste Plan: Proposed Sites and Policies	Following consultation by the six West London boroughs - Hillingdon, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hounslow and Richmond-upon-Thames, Cabinet will be asked to approve an up-to-date policy framework to assess planning applications for waste management facilities - also forming part of the Local Development Framework for each Borough.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PEECS - Jales Tippell		

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Cabinet - 15 December 2011								
713	Pan London Highways Alliance Contract	The report seeks the views of the Cabinet on whether the Council should join a proposed Pan London Common Highways Contract for the delivery of scheme based highways maintenance and improvement works upon the expiration of the current highways term contract in April 2013. It is proposed to delegate final approval to sign-up to the scheme to the Leader and Cabinet Member.			Cllr Keith Burrows & Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - James Birch	Corporate Procurement, Transport for London	
692	Appointment of technical consultants to support delivery of the Council's Supported Housing Programme	Cabinet will be asked to accept a tender in relation to all professional services for the development of the Supported Housing Programme, including Employers Agent, Quantity Surveying, Mechanical and Electrical Design and Structural Engineering.	Various		Cllr Philip Corthorne / Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Kevin Taplin	Corporate Landlord and Corporate Procurement	
701	Supply of Smart Cards and the provision of Bureau Services - contract extension	Cabinet will be asked to extend a contract for 2 years for the supply of Smart Cards and the provision of bureau services in connection with the HillingdonFirst card.	N/A		Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Steve Palmer	Corporate Procurement	
612	Highgrove Pool Refurbishment - Second Stage Tender	The report will highlight the outcome of the second stage of a two stage tender process for the Council's Construction partner for the refurbishment of Highgrove Pool.	Eastcote & East Ruislip		Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Mohamed Bhimani	Corporate Procurement	

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673	54 Howletts Lane, Ruislip, HA4	Cabinet will be asked to declare the property surplus to requirements and give authority to dispose of the property.	West Ruislip		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	PEECS - Mohammad Lais	Legal Services, Finance and Education Services	
647a	The Council's Budget - Medium Term Financial Forecast 2012/13 - 2015/16	This report will set out the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF), which includes the draft General Fund reserve budget and capital programme for 2012/13 for consultation, along with indicative projections for the following three years.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	CS- Paul Whaymand	Public consultation through the Policy Overview Committee process and statutory consultation with businesses & ratepayers	
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Cabinet - 26 January 2012								
710	Award of refurbishment contract - Yeading Library	This report will advise Cabinet of the outcome of the tender for the refurbishment of the Yeading Library, which forms part of the Council's programme to roll out the refurbishment of all borough libraries.	Yeading		Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Mohamed Bhimani		
711	Award of refurbishment contract - Winston Churchill Hall	This report will advise Cabinet of the outcome of the tender for the refurbishment of the Winston Churchill Hall, a key community and cultural facility within the Borough.	Eastcote & East Ruislip		Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Mohamed Bhimani		

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691	Broadband and Internet Service Provision Contract	Following a procurement exercise, Cabinet will be asked to agree the contract for Broadband and Internet Service provision for the Council for a period of 5 years from 1st July 2012.	N/A		Cllr Jonathan Bianco / Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby	PEECS - Steve Palmer	Corporate Procurement & current and future broadband and ISP providers	
702	National Non-Domestic Rates - Guidelines for Granting Discretionary Rate Relief	Cabinet will be asked to amend the current guidelines for granting such rate relief, which have been in operation since 1996 and need to be brought up-to-date. Such guidelines are used by officers and the Cabinet Member considering applications or appeals.	N/A		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	CS - Rob Smith		
61	Hillingdon Khat Review	An update from the Committee on progress so far on implementing its recommendations to tackle the legal high, Khat.	Various		Cllr Douglas Mills	Democratic Services		

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Cabinet - 16 February 2012								
584	Responsible Retailer Pilot	Cabinet requested a further report back following the implementation of the pilot scheme and to consider any roll-out across the Borough.	All		Cllr Douglas Mills	PEECS - Peggy Law / Sue Pollitt	Feedback from pilot	
647b	The Council's Budget - Medium Term Financial Forecast 2012/13 - 2015/16	This report will set out the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF), which includes the proposed General Fund reserve budget and capital programme for 2012/13, along with indicative projections for the following three years.	All	23-Feb-12	Cllr Jonathan Bianco	CS- Paul Whaymand	Public consultation through the Policy Overview Committee process and statutory consultation with businesses & ratepayers	
515	Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Rent Setting 2012-2013	To set rents and fees and charges for HRA dwellings and recommend to full Council.	All	23-Feb-12	Cllr Phillip Corthorne	SCH&H - Maqsood Sheikh	Tenants and other stakeholders	

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Cabinet - 29 March 2012								
608	Community Infrastructure Levy	Following approval to develop a scheme in April, Cabinet will be asked to adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy and Charging Schedule.	All		Cllr Keith Burrows	PEECS - Jales Tippell		
709	Equality and Diversity Policy	This updated policy will be presented to Cabinet for approval, outlining the Council's responsibilities under the new Equality Act 2010 and setting out the Council's equality objectives as part of meeting our statutory duties.	All		Cllr Douglas Mills	CS - Vicky Trott	Internal Groups	Opportunity for all - Equal Opportunities Policy, Equality in Employment, Equality Act 2010
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Cabinet - 26 April 2012								
SI	Reports from Policy Overview Committees	Major Policy Review recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet as and when completed.	TBC		as appropriate	Democratic Services		
SI	Monthly Council Budget - monitoring report	The Cabinet receives a monthly report setting out in detail the council's revenue and capital position.	All		Cllr Jonathan Bianco	CS - Paul Whaymand		

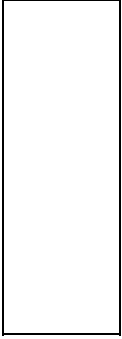
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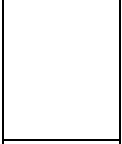
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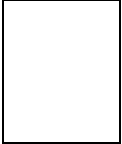
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Agenda Item 7

RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 2011/12

Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra
Telephone: 01895 277488

REASON FOR ITEM

All Committee meetings will begin at 5.30 p.m. That the Committee consider revisions to the scheduling of existing meetings based upon review topics during 2011/12 as set out below:

WORK PROGRAMME

9 June 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discuss – to discuss potential review topics for 2011/12
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

26 July 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion – consideration of scoping report
	Budget Reports for consideration
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

13 September 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review 1 Discussion – first witness session
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

6 October 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion -second witness session
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.

15 November 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Statement of Licensing Policy - consultation update
	Annual Safety at Sports Ground Report – Committee update.
	Review Discussion – third witness session
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
7 December 2011	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion – fourth witness session
	Khat Review Update
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
17 January 2012	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion and Update
	Budget Reports for consideration
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
15 February 2012	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion – final witness session
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
7 March 2012	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Review Discussion – consideration of conclusions and recommendations
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.
10 April 2012	Work Programme – review the annual work programme
	Agree final report
	Cabinet Forward Plan – review forthcoming decisions and if appropriate, comment to the decision-maker.