



St. Helens  
Council



# Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document

June 2008

Local Development Framework



## Supplementary Planning Document - Telecommunications:

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## 1 Introduction

**1.1** The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to provide additional guidance for members of the public and applicants against which applications for telecommunications equipment will be assessed. This SPD should be read in conjunction with the Councils Unitary Development Plan and PPG 8, Telecommunications.

**1.2** This SPD supplements policy GEN 11, Telecommunications, in the St Helens Unitary development plan (UDP), adopted in July 1998 and informs the emerging policies in the Councils Local Development Framework. Details of the Policy is contained within Appendix 1.

**1.3** Government guidance (PPS 12: Local Development Framework) states that SPD should provide additional information to existing plan policies, assisting applicants and decision makers in interpreting and applying policy. Once adopted, will be an important material consideration in determining planning proposals.

**1.4** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and accompanying regulations allows for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents, which are not subject to independent examination and, as the name implies, supplement policies in the development plan. In accordance with procedural requirements and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement a pre-submission scoping report and Sustainability Appraisal methodology underwent consultation during June and July 2007. The representations were considered and taken into account in drawing up the draft document. The Draft SPD was further subject to a sustainability appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment screening and amended accordingly. This draft SPD, together with the associated Sustainability Report and Habitats Regulations Screening, were then submitted to Government Office for the North West in November 2007, which started a six week period of public consultation. Following this, representations were considered and amendments made to the SPD. This final version of the guidance was approved for adoption by Executive in June 2008. The performance of the SPD will be measured through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report which is published in December of each year.

**1.5** The policies within the Telecoms SPD will be amended in due course as part of a planned programme of work when the LDF policies have been updated. Similarly the SPD will be updated in accordance with any changes to RSS.

### Definition

**1.6** Telecommunications refers to any transmission, emission or reception of sign, signals, writings, images and sounds or information of any nature by wire, radio, visual or other electromagnetic systems over a distance.

## Aims and Objectives

**1.7** The overall aim of this SPD is to take account of the need for the Council to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals whilst protecting the urban and rural areas from inappropriate development.

**1.8** The objectives of the SPD are:

- To provide clear guidance to assist in the determination of planning applications for telecommunications development;
- To ensure installations are located sensitively in order to minimize their environmental impact in their locality;
- To secure the highest possible quality of sustainable design for all installations.

**1.9** To support the provision of high quality telecommunications networks that support economic growth.

## 2 Policy Context

### National Policy Context

**2.1** The Government's planning policy on telecommunications infrastructure is defined in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG 8): Telecommunications (August 2001). PPG 8 identifies modern telecommunications as "Essential and beneficial element in the life of the local community and in the national economy". PPG 8 identifies the need "To facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

**2.2** PPG 8 encourages Local Planning Authorities and Operators to "Work together to find the optimum environmental and network solution on a case-by case basis" Whilst, also having regard to the technical constraints of the location and design of the proposed development.

**2.3** PPG 8 aims to "Ensure that people have a choice as to who provides their telecommunications service, a wider range of services from which to choose and equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available".

**2.4** PPG 8 identifies that "Health considerations and public concern can in principle be material considerations it is the Government's firm view that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards".

### Regional Policy Context

**2.5** Existing Regional Planning Guidance for the North West (RPG 13), now the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West does not contain any specific policies relating to telecommunications development. Nor does the Panel Report following the Examination In Public of the Draft RSS. However, policy DP3 of the Draft RSS requires good design quality

in new development. The policy sets out guidance on how new development should demonstrate good design quality and should be appropriately located in order to respect the setting and environment.

## Local Policy Context

**2.6** St Helens Unitary Development Plan (UDP) contains a number of primary strategic aims that are relevant to the SPD, which are set out in Part 1 of the written statement. These include:

- To balance the needs of new development and protection of the environment;
- Improve the quality of the environment to make St Helens a more attractive and safer place in which to live, work, play, invest and to visit;
- To promote new economic activity in order to diversify and expand the existing industrial base and provide future job opportunities;
- To take account of the need of all sectors of the community in the provision of housing, employment, transport, recreation facilities and infrastructure.

**2.7** In addition policy S7, Sustainable Development, highlights the need to conserve the environment through ensuring that new development is only permitted where it minimises any adverse effects on the environment.

**2.8** Policy GEN 11, Telecommunications, sets out particular criteria that telecommunications development need to satisfy, carrying through many of main principles enshrined in PPG 8.

## 3 Links to Other Plans

**3.1** The SPD is intended to contribute to the overall vision of the St Helens Community Plan 2002 – 2012 (revised in April 2004) and the City Growth Strategy (2003). Any proposals for telecommunications development should be aligned with objectives contained in the Community Plan, the City Growth Strategy, the councils statement of community involvement and other SPDs.

## 4 Planning Controls

**4.1** The majority of telecommunications development does not require specific planning permission from the Council as a result of general permission granted under Parts 24 and 25 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended). This includes replacement or additional equipment and new masts of that do not exceed 15 metres in height that stand on the ground. In such instances, an applicant would be required to apply to the Local Planning Authority for prior approval in order to determine the siting and design of the development.

**4.2** Prior approval allows the Council to consider whether the siting and appearance of the proposed installation is acceptable, but does not allow it to consider the principle or the need for the development. The Council has to make its decision and communicate this to the applicant within 56 days otherwise prior approval will be deemed to have been given.

**4.3** For those applications requiring full planning permission, a formal planning application will be required. Local Planning Authorities are expected to decide planning applications within eight weeks of their submission.

**4.4** For both prior approval applications and planning applications, where these are refused by the Local Planning Authority, the operator has the right of appeal to the Secretary of State.

**4.5** Where a new mast site is proposed, it should be accompanied with the details set out in appendix 3, which include evidence of a network need and evidence that alternative sites have been considered. This should include a plan at a relevant scale clearly indicating the location of alternative sites. In addition the Council would expect a detailed explanation of why the alternative sites have been rejected.

## **5 Consultation Arrangements**

**5.1** PPG 8 encourages operators to enter into pre-application discussions with the Local Planning Authority and other organisations that may have an interest in the proposed development. In addition, operators are also expected to discuss their annual roll out plans for their future telecommunications installations with the relevant local authorities. The Council does encourage pre-application discussions with local operators in line with national policy. In addition the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development sets out clearly defined consultation and pre-consultation procedures based on the 'traffic light model' approach.

**5.2** The Council will carry out appropriate notifications and publicity for each application for prior approval or full planning permission, taking into account the nature of the proposed development and its relationship to those who might be affected.

**5.3** Individual letters notifying neighbouring occupiers of land and property will be sent; site notice(s) may be placed on or near the application site and a notice may also be put in the local press. In addition to this, a weekly list of all applications received is published and is made available on our website [www.sthelens.gov.uk](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk).

**5.4** If a mast or other telecommunications development (submitted as a prior approval or as a full planning application) falls within 200m of the boundary of a school, nursery, crèche, college or hospital etc. the Council and the applicant will notify the school, nursery, crèche, college, hospital etc. and ask for their comments. In addition, Ward Councilors will be notified of the proposed mast or other telecommunications development. If the site falls within 200m of the boundary of an adjoining ward, all Council members for that ward will also be notified.

**5.5** St Helens Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted in January 2007 and sets out how the public will be consulted on new planning policies including SPDs and significant planning applications. Therefore, consultation on applications for planning permission or prior approval will be required to conform to the provisions outlined in the SCI.

## 6 Siting Guidelines

### *Mast and Site Sharing*

**6.1** Mast and site sharing is strongly encouraged where this will result in the least visual intrusion and eliminate the need for a new mast. Where an existing mast offers insufficient spare capacity at the requisite height, operators will generally be expected to investigate extending or replacing the mast in order to accommodate mast sharing, when this represents the best option in environmental terms.



Picture 6.1 Mast in use by multiple operators

**6.2** Mast sharing may necessitate an increase in the mast height, or bulk to minimize interference with equipment of other operators and it is recognised that mast sharing, in some limited cases, may not be the optimum visual solution. It can sometimes result in ungainly structures and/or enhanced visual intrusion. In such circumstances, several smaller masts may offer a preferable solution, but this will depend on the landscape setting, the relationship with other structures and development, and potential cumulative effects.



Picture 6.2 An example of using two smaller masts to reduce visual intrusion

### ***Cumulative Impacts***

**6.3** The Council would take into account the cumulative impact (including street clutter) when considering proposed telecommunications developments.

### ***Mast Siting***

**6.4** Where the need for a new mast or base station has been established, the Council will consider the suitability of the submitted design in relation to the local environment. The Council would wish to see the use of slim line pole type structure where appropriate, rather than more bulky or lattice type towers. New masts and base stations should aim to minimise visual impacts on the surrounding environment. The following measures can reduce visual effects of a ground-based mast:

- Placing a mast near to similar structures. For example, industrial and commercial premises, road signs, lamp posts.
- Placing a mast within an existing group of trees (this may also include planting new trees to help integrate it into the landscape).

- Using plain and simple designs. Masts which have complex designs are more likely to dominate and conflict with the character and appearance of the landscape and have adverse visual impacts.
- Masts and associated equipment should be painted in an appropriate colour that is sympathetic to its surroundings.

### ***Environment***

**6.5** Development proposals including the siting of any masts, equipment, compounds and access roads must have due regard to the local environment including the biodiversity of the area.

### ***Sensitive Areas***

**6.6** Special consideration will be given to the environmental impact of development on areas or sites specifically protected / designated for their importance in terms of landscape, nature conservation, open space, biodiversity, geodiversity, heritage or design. In cases where installations cannot be sensitively achieved, permission will be refused.

### ***Schools, Nurseries, Crèches, Colleges & Hospitals***

**6.7** Proposed new base stations, masts and equipment cabinets will not normally be acceptable on, or in close proximity to a school, nursery, crèche, college or hospital etc.

### ***Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Designated Heritage & Locally Important Assets***

**6.8** Proposed new free-standing masts and equipment cabinets will not normally be acceptable within or immediately adjacent to a Conservation Areas, Designated Heritage & Locally Important Assets or within the curtilage or setting of a Listed Building. Sympathetically designed installations attached to, or housed within, existing structures may be acceptable where their visual appearance (individually or cumulatively) will not detract from the special architectural or historical character and appearance of the building, or that of the wider area.

### ***Areas of Special Nature Considerations***

**6.9** In addition to the requirements set out elsewhere in this SPD, applicants will be expected to demonstrate that the identified nature conservation interests will be protected and preserved during the installation, operation and ultimately, the removal of any such equipment.

### ***Landscape Character Assessment***

**6.10** When submitting proposals the Council will expect developers to show how they have had regard to the findings of the St Helens Landscape Character Assessment (2006).

### ***Main Rivers and Areas at Risk of Flooding***

**6.11** When submitting proposals, for masts or equipment which will be sited in flood risk areas, developers will be expected to show that they have considered flood proofing as part of the design. They will also need to address any impacts on controlled waters.

**6.12** Where development is located within 8 metres of a main river under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency will be required.

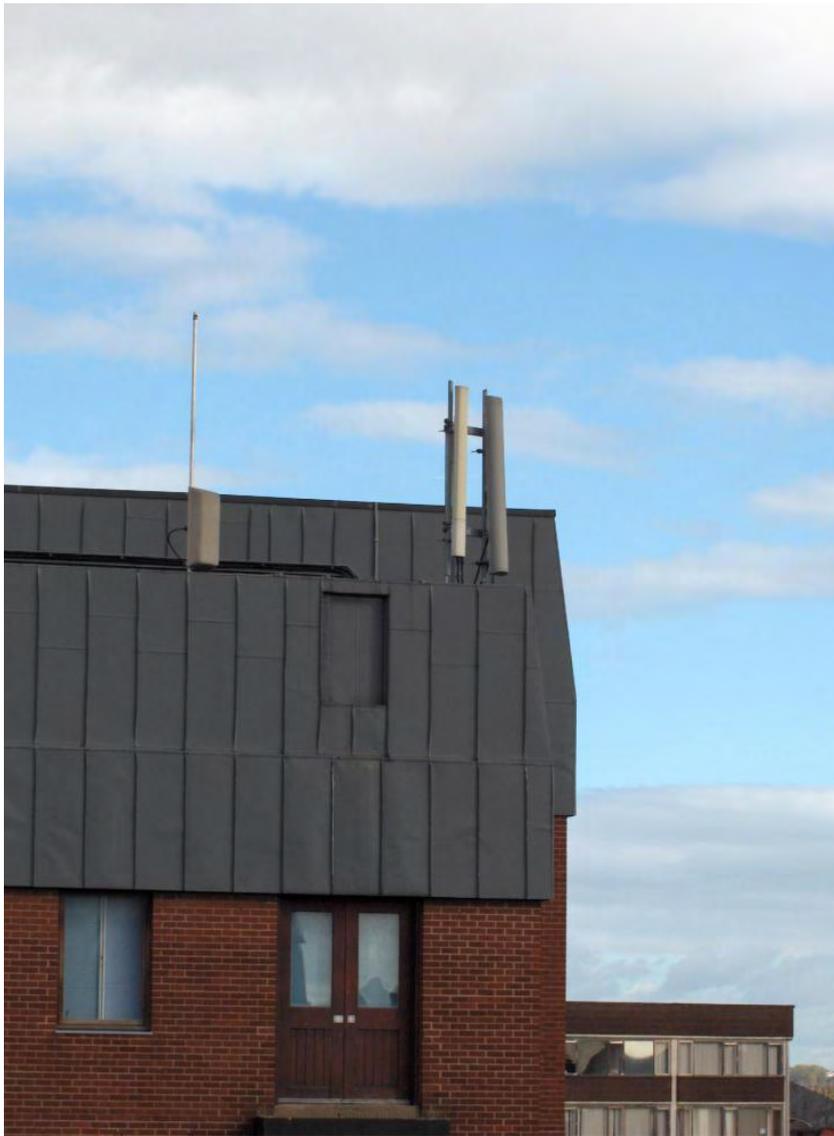
***Green Belt***

**6.13** The Council accepts that to provide uninterrupted service coverage, operators may require to locate certain base stations within the Green Belt. However, in the Green Belt, telecommunications development is likely to be inappropriate unless it maintains the openness of the Green Belt and the purpose of including land within it. The Council expects any such proposals to be sensitively sited. PPG 8 requires developers to submit details showing a lack of other suitable alternative sites which meet the needs of network coverage or capacity, in order to show that very special circumstances may exist.

## 7 Design Guidelines

### *Mast Design*

**7.1** A developer's main aim should be to minimise visual impact, through the use of appropriate and innovative designs, including the use of slim-line monopole masts in appropriate circumstances. In some cases the use of masts designed to resemble street lighting columns may be appropriate whilst in other situations it may be possible sometimes to incorporate equipment unobtrusively inside buildings such as church towers or utilise existing street lamp columns.



Picture 7.1 An example of innovative mast installation

### *Fencing*

**7.2** The design of fencing around equipment compounds should be sympathetic to its surroundings. The use of sensitively designed fencing will normally be the most appropriate solution in terms of visual impact and security. Steel palisade fencing will only be appropriate in exceptional circumstances. All fencing should be of an appropriate colour.

### ***Equipment Cabins***

**7.3** The materials and colour of equipment cabins, cable boxes and other associated items should assist in minimising the visual impact of the installation. Operators should explain in their submissions how the selected materials and colours achieve this objective. Wherever possible, equipment cabins and other equipment to serve rooftop installations should be placed inside buildings or be concealed by existing structures.

**7.4** The impact of associated infrastructure such as equipment cabins, fencing and access roads can be significant and have an adverse effect upon the visual amenities of an area particularly in rural areas. The consideration of a development would include associated equipment and access.

**7.5** Equipment cabinets should be of a suitably durable construction, including anti-vandal lids. The operating company retains the responsibility for maintenance, cleaning and repair etc.



Picture 7.2 An example of equipment cabins

## 8 Highway Safety

**8.1** Where applications for base stations located within the highway or on roadside verges are proposed, care must be taken to:

- Ensure footways / cycleways are at least 2.0m wide (as stated in the Merseyside Code of Practice on Access Mobility) to ensure the free flow and safe passage of pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users;
- Ensure no interference with the safe approach to, or operation of, dropped crossings or bus stops, etc;
- Ensure that the legibility and visibility of road or direction signs are not obstructed;
- Ensure that there is no obstruction to visibility for vehicles emerging from adjacent roads or for vehicles on the main carriageway;
- Ensure that highway safety is not otherwise compromised.

**8.2** This will be done in consultation with the relevant Highways Authority. In addition there should be adequate provision for the safe access by service vehicles to avoid any adverse impact upon highway safety. Appropriate permissions will need to be sought under the New Roads and Streetworks Act (1991).

**8.3** Base stations will not be permitted at locations that adversely affect proposed highway improvement schemes.



Picture 8.1 An example of a mast on the highway verge

## 9 Removal of Redundant Telecommunication Apparatus

**9.1** In accordance with the relevant legislation the Council will require the removal of equipment when it is no longer needed.

## 10 Radio Interference

**10.1** In considering applications the Council will have regard to any technical evidence submitted with the application supporting a particular design solution where required to avoid radio interference between proposed and existing equipment or to avoid possible interference to other broadcasts.

## 11 Health Considerations

**11.1** The Council, the Government and the Network Operators recognise that the public may have certain concerns and worries about the possible health effects presented by telecommunications base stations.

**11.2** Following research by an independent group of experts into the possible health effects posed by mobile phones and base stations, the Stewart Report 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."

**11.3** PPG 8 sets out very clearly the Government's view on public health concerns about telecommunications masts, and the approach that local planning authorities should take in this respect. PPG 8 highlights that, "Health considerations and public concern can, in principle, be material considerations in determining application for planning permission and prior approval. Whether such matters are material in a particular case is ultimately a matter for the courts. It is for the decision-maker (usually the local planning authority) to determine what weight to attach to such considerations in any particular case".

**11.4** PPG 8 expresses Government's firm view that, "The planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains central Government's 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 (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) 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".

**11.5** PPG 8 guards against a precautionary approach and highlights, "The Groups report suggested a number of specific precautionary actions, which have been accepted by Government. The report does not provide any basis for precautionary actions beyond those already proposed. In the Government's view, local planning authorities should not implement their own precautionary policies e.g. by way of imposing a ban or moratorium on new telecommunications development or insisting on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development".

**11.6** As a result of this, the Council will expect all application for telecommunications development to be accompanied by a statement that certifies that the proposed development will, in itself and cumulatively, operate with ICNIRP guidelines.

## **Appendix 1, St Helens UDP Policy, GEN 11, Telecommunications Apparatus**

**Planning permission will be granted for telecommunications developments provided that the following general principles are satisfied:**

- i. Wherever possible, non-domestic apparatus should be sited within the urban areas;
- ii. Wherever possible, masts and towers should be shared and mounted apparatus should otherwise be grouped to minimise visual clutter;
- iii. Apparatus in the countryside and close to open land within the urban areas should normally either be sited so that it is out of sight of the general public or where the landform, buildings, established trees and opportunities for new woodland planting make it possible to ensure that views are masked or broken up;
- iv. Apparatus should normally be unobtrusive in relation to primary residential areas, areas of mixed use, Conservation Areas and the setting of listed buildings;
- v. In areas frequented by the general public for their business, shopping and pleasure apparatus should be out of sight from street level, so far as practicable;
- vi. Siting at ground level, with appropriate screening, is to be preferred to mounting on buildings or other structures;
- vii. Wall - mounted dishes and apparatus should be placed in the least obtrusive position possible, taking account of the architectural detailing of the building and its neighbours;
- viii. Dishes and antennae should not normally be placed above the highest part of the roof of a building, on chimneys or otherwise, except where they would be no more obtrusive than a conventional television aerial;
- ix. Apparatus, mountings and ancillary structures should be coloured in a durable finish appropriate to the background against which they will be seen, so as to merge into it.

## Policy Justification

Government advice (PPG 8) asks Local Planning Authorities to take account of the strategic requirements of telecommunications networks and to recognise their special needs in preparing development plans.

In exercising its powers of control and enforcement as Local Planning Authority, the Council will have regard to the wider benefits of telecommunications developments, the technical consideration which may limit the range of options available to operators providing important services, and the need to strike a sensible balance between operational demands and constraints. In addition to policies protecting the countryside from unnecessary and obtrusive developments (GB 2, GB 13, ENV 18 - 19), including inappropriate development on the edges of urban areas, it will apply the general principles contained in policy GEN 11.

This policy is intended to provide guidelines for both commercial and domestic situations in a way that is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the rapid pace of technological change in this particular field. The Council acknowledges that modern telecommunications apparatus facilitates new choices in matters such as banking and working from home; established and new systems contribute in some part to cutting down the need to travel and thus should not be seen as inherently hostile to the environment.

The General Development Order provides opportunities to erect many facilities without reference to the Council, though in some cases there is a short notification period, which allows for intervention where there is a significant amenity issue. Therefore, with respect to larger and more intrusive installations, where full control exists, it is appropriate to insist on the best possible arrangements. Indeed it will be for operators to demonstrate that sharing of facilities and other solutions have been fully explored.

A variety of options exist for avoiding adverse visual impact, down to and including ground siting of equipment on nearby land and running the signal cable to the reception point.

Special issues arise in relation to Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, designated Heritage and Locally Important Assets. Separate Listed buildings Consent will also be required for any apparatus on or within the curtilage of a Listed Building.

The design and performance of dish aerials is improving, so that they are generally becoming smaller and generally less obtrusive. However, it remains necessary to ensure that domestic installations and commercial installations close to houses are, so far as practicable, out of direct public view, out of the line of sight from principle windows and so positioned or treated as to avoid nuisance from glare.

It is acknowledged that technical consideration will mean it may not be possible to satisfy all of the relevant general principles listed in the policy in every case. Therefore, in such cases it will be necessary to come to a balanced judgment over whether the benefits of the proposed development would outweigh the perceived harm.

## Appendix 2, Other Related Communication Technologies

### Digital Switchover

By 2012 all television will be fully digital. The benefits will include a greater choice of affordable digital options, and enabling more innovative services to be provided.

Physical works will be required to enable the switchover ranging from major alterations and replacement of a small proportion of the large broadcast masts, to minor works which do not materially effect the external appearance of the structure or building as a whole.

In some areas switchover may necessitate new installations to provide limited coverage to complete localised gaps in the network. Where a new installation is proposed, and an application for planning permission is required, the significance of the development as part of the national network will be an important material consideration when assessing the proposal. In addition, where any new masts are proposed, the applicants will be expected to provide evidence that the use of existing masts, buildings or other structures has been explored.

The need for the digital TV network has been agreed at the national level and, consequently, the Government has stated that no weight should be attached to any objections to proposed developments on the basis that analogue transmissions should be maintained.

### Wi-fi Technology

Wi-fi, short for wireless fidelity, is the popular term used to refer to a high-frequency wireless local area network. When wi-fi coverage is established, a person with a wi-fi enabled device, such as a laptop or mobile phone, can connect to the Internet when they are in proximity of an access point without the need for a physical connection between the wi-fi device and a telephone point.

Benefits of high quality wi-fi coverage include:

- It can help to attract businesses to an area, stimulate investment and help firms remain competitive, and also increase employment opportunities;
- It can reduce the need to travel, with its associated environmental benefits;
- It can reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion, by allowing more people to have access to high quality telecommunications.

### BT (British Telecom) Public Call Boxes

There are approximately 75,000 public call boxes in the UK. As a result of the popularity of mobile phones, the use of call boxes has declined significantly. Despite this, public call boxes are still required for those who use them as their primary means of making calls.

Although there is a need to maintain good accessibility to public call boxes and retain the existing provision wherever practicable, it is recognized that declining use of these facilities has meant that BT have sought to remove some of the less well-used boxes.

The installation, replacement or alteration of a public call box requires an application for prior approval.

## Appendix 3, Glossary of Terms

**Antenna** – A device that transmits and receives radio waves. Antennas are usually erected on top of the base station mast or directly onto a building or other suitable supporting structure.

**Base Station** – A fixed radio transmitter receiver that electronically relays signals to and from mobile handsets and other data terminals. The terms generally includes all the following components of the development: the antenna, mast or supporting structure, equipment housing, power cable and ancillary security fencing, whether the base station is erected on land or buildings.

**Cell** – A geographical area over which base stations transmit and receive radio signals to and from mobile phones to provide service coverage. Cells link together like a honeycomb to provide continuous /seamless coverage across a wide area providing mobile phones with an uninterrupted service as they traverse through an area communicating with successive base stations. There are three types of cell: macrocell, microcell and picocell.

**Electromagnetic Waves / Fields** – Electromagnetic waves are used to transmit and receive signals from mobile phones and their base stations and are also emitted by natural man-made sources. The type of electromagnetic waves used in mobile phones is called radio frequency (RF) waves / fields.

**Frequency** – Frequency is the number of times per second at which an electromagnetic wave oscillates. Frequencies between 30KHz and 300 GHz are widely used for telecommunication including broadcast radio and television, and comprise the radio frequency band.

**ICNIRP – The International Commission on Non-Ionizing 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** Group chaired by William Stewart and also know as the Stewart Report. This was published in May 2000.

**Macrocel I** – A macrocell provides the largest area of coverage within a mobile network. The antennas for macrocells are typically mounted on ground-based masts, rooftops or other existing structures. They must be positioned at a height that is not obstructed by terrain or buildings.

**Mast** – A ground-based or roof top structure that supports antennas at a height where they can satisfactorily send and receive radio waves. Masts themselves play no part in the transmission of mobile telecommunications.

**Microcell** – Microcells provide additional coverage and capacity where there are high numbers of users within urban and suburban areas. Microcell antenna are usually smaller than macrocell antenna, and are typically mounted at street level on external walls of existing structures, lamp-posts and other street furniture. They can often be effectively integrated into existing structures, lamp-posts and other street furniture. They can often be effectively integrated into existing building features and streetscape. Their range is limited and they transmit at a low power.

**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.

**Permitted Development** – Certain types of development automatically get planning permission without the need to apply to the Council for approval. This is known as ‘permitted development’. The Government sets the rules that decide what is permitted development.

**Picocell** – A picocell provides more localised coverage than a microcell.

These are normally found inside buildings where coverage is poor or there are a high number of users such as airport terminals, train stations or shopping centres.

**Prior Approval** – Certain types of development are permitted development that does not require separate planning permission subject to the operator satisfying a ‘prior approval procedure’ when the Local Planning Authority has 56 days to assess whether the appearance and siting of the proposed installation is acceptable.

**Radiation** – The emission of transfer of radiant energy as particles, electromagnetic waves and sound.

**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.

**Transmitter** – Electronic equipment that generates radio frequency electromagnetic energy (RF or radio waves) from an antenna to a connecting source such as a mobile phone or radio.

## Appendix 4, Validation Check List for Prior Notification Procedure and Full Applications for Telecommunications

In addition to the information required to be submitted under Part 24 of Schedule 2 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) for a prior approval application and the requirements specified on the Council's application forms for planning permission it is recommended that the following information is also submitted in order to assist with the processing of the application:

A signed declaration that the equipment and installation fully complies with the ICNIRP requirements together with a statement of the cumulative impact of the proposal and any other installations in the vicinity of the site.
Site type (micro or macro).
Details of the proposed structure including the type of structure and its dimensions, height of existing building and details of the size of equipment housing and materials.
A statement explaining the reasons for the choice of the design.
Technical information including the frequency, modulation characteristics, power output and the height of the proposed antenna.
Landscape and visual impact assessment where relevant.
Acoustic report where relevant.
Area of search.
Technical justification — details about the purpose of the site and why the particular development is required.
Details of alternative sites rejected with a justification for rejecting them. This should include existing masts, structures and other buildings within the search area.
An explanation if no alternatives considered Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Telecommunications Development.
Confirmation as to whether the Council's mast register and/or the industry site database has been checked for suitable sites.
A map showing the relationship of the application site to schools and other telecommunication equipment in the vicinity.
Details of annual rollout and pre application discussions with the Council.
Details of all consultations carried out including Parish Council where appropriate and copies of all written comments.
Details of any consultations carried out with any particular school, crèche, nursery or further education college if relevant.
Details of any consultation carried out with the CAA/Secretary of State for Defence / Aerodrome operator if relevant.

**Supplementary Planning Document - Telecommunications:**

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Identification of any other applications recently approved in the area.
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Identification of existing masts in neighbouring Districts and any opportunities for mast sharing.
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Any other relevant additional information.
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## **Appendix 5, Useful Websites and Documents**

Web site of the Mobile Operators Association.

<http://www.mobilemastinfo.com/>

Web site of the Health Protection Agency

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/>

The regulator of the UK communications industry.

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

Web site of St Helens Council.

<http://www.sthelens.gov.uk>

Web site of the Examination in Public into the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West.

<http://www.northwesteip.co.uk/home/>

Web site of the Environment Agency.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Web site of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection.

<http://www.icnirp.de/>

Web site of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones.

<http://www.iegmp.org.uk/>

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications (2001) Department of Transport, Local Government and the Region.s

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/>

Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (2002) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/>

## **Adoption Statement**

In accordance with Regulation 16 (2) and 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, St Helens Council hereby gives notice that the Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document was adopted on the 25th June 2008.

The Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document takes into account the need for the Council to respond positively to telecommunications development proposals whilst protecting the urban and rural areas from inappropriate development.

Copies of the adopted Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document - June 2008 and a summary of the representations received are available for inspection at Regeneration Reception, Town Hall, Victoria Square, St Helens and all local libraries in the Borough during normal opening hours. The adopted Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document - June 2008, and a summary of the representations can also be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website at [ldf.sthelens.gov.uk](http://ldf.sthelens.gov.uk) or obtained by contacting the Planning Policy Team on 01744 456190.

Any person aggrieved by the Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document may make an application to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision to adopt the document. Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 3 months after the day on which the Telecommunications Supplementary Planning Document was adopted.



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St.Helens Council

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