



## Regeneration & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Julia Mellor  
Date: Wednesday, 18th February 2009  
Open

## Mobile Phone Mast Roll Out Plans 2008/09

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 To present to Members the five telecommunication operators current roll out plans for the district.

### 2. Background

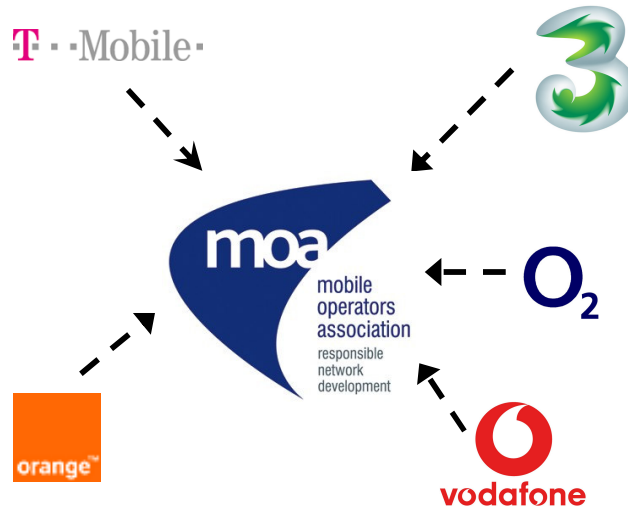
- 2.1 The Mobile Phone Task and Finish Group were appointed in July 2005 by the Environment and Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel to consider:

- Health Issues related to mobile phone masts;
- Public views on mobile phone uses and phone masts;
- Planning regulations and appeals; and
- Current policies regarding masts on Council owned land.

- 2.2 The scrutiny exercise undertaken by the Task and Finish Group considered evidence from a number of sources listed below:

- September 2005 – A question and answer session with the Council Liaison Manager from the Mobile Operators Association (MOA) and representatives from '3', 'O2', 'T Mobile' and 'Vodafone';
- November 2005 – question and answer session with Dr Michael Clark from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) Centre for Radiation regarding health matters;
- Background information from the internet including reports on mobile phones and health;
- District Council Officers' written and oral contributions and presentation of the roll out plans;
- Results of a Mobile Phone Survey distributed to students within the District;
- Current practice from Birmingham City Council and Coventry City Council regarding the siting of equipment on Council owned land

- 2.3 The exercise culminated in a total of 8 recommendations which were agreed by Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006. One of the recommendations endorsed by Cabinet requested periodic update reports to the Panel on the telecommunications operators roll out plans.
- 2.4 There are five mobile phone operators in the UK currently licensed to deliver the networks. These are 3, O2, T Mobile, Vodafone and Orange. A sixth operator known as O2 Airwave operates the Terrestrial Trunked Radio network or TETRA which is used by the emergency services



- 2.5 The submission of annual roll out plans is highlighted in the 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development' as one of the stages in the site selection process. The code describes the plan as a, "... valuable opportunity for operators to share information with local authorities to provide feedback and general advice to the operators to help guide their thinking and plans." The operators have been complying with the commitment to send rollout plans since 2001 and for the last 4 years the information has been submitted jointly and electronically via the MOA. The idea is to provide a strategic overview or a 'look ahead' at the forthcoming mobile developments envisaged for the forthcoming year.
- 2.6 In March 2008 a representative from the MOA gave a presentation on the 2007/08 roll out plan to members of the Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. The presentation also provided a refresher on how mobile networks operate, why additional sites are required and how sites are selected together with the latest advice regarding health fears. The meeting was also attended by representatives from T Mobile, O2, Vodafone and '3' who were able to respond to site specific questions raised by Members. A similar presentation will be given at this evening's meeting when Members will be able to raise general telecommunication queries and question the

individual representatives from the operators with respect to the specific sites highlighted on the current 2008/09 roll out plan.

2.7 The current 2008/09 roll out plan which was first presented to the Quarterly Members Briefing Session in January 2009 is displayed in two formats. The five tables at paragraph 2.8 below set out each individual operators existing and proposed requirements and indicate those sites which:

- are already built and operational; or
- have received planning approval and are soon to be operational; or
- are proposed but where planning consent has been refused; or
- are proposed but where planning consent has been refused and an appeal has been submitted; or
- are proposed and may or may not result in the submission of a planning or notification application in the coming 12 months.

In addition to the tables below the sites will be displayed on district wide maps which will be handed out at the meeting.

2.8



|   | <b>Area</b>   | <b>Site Name</b>  | <b>Site Address</b>            | <b>Status</b>              |
|---|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Kidderminster | Foley Park        | Foley Park                     | Site Built                 |
| 2 | Kidderminster | Kidderminster GSC | Waterloo Street                | Site Built                 |
| 3 | Kidderminster | Kidderminster     | Burlish Top                    | Site Built                 |
| 4 | Bewdley       | Grey Green Farm   | Grey Green Farm Crundalls Lane | Appeal Allowed, Site Built |
| 5 | Blakedown     | Harborough Farm   | Birmingham Road                | Site Built                 |



|    | Area                | Site Name                        | Site Address  | Status   |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1  | Kidderminster       | Kidderminster BBC                | Burlish Top   | Site Built   |
| 2  | Kidderminster       | Kidderminster Telephone Exchange | Kidderminster TE Waterloo Street  | Site Built   |
| 3  | Pound Bank          | Old Lye Farm                     | Tenbury Road, Opposite Field House Farm, Rock                                     | Site Built   |
| 4  | Barnet Hill         | Barnet Hill                      | Adj. Severn Trent Pumping Station   | Site Built   |
| 5  | Wolverley / Cookley | Gaymore Farm                     | Austcliffe, Gaymore Farm Cookley  | Site Built   |
| 6  | Stourport           | Dortrend International           | Dortrend International Limited Riverside Business Centre Worcester Road Stourport | Site Built   |
| 7  | Catchems End        | West Midlands Safari Park        | Spring Grove, Bewdley   | Site Built   |
| 8  | Hoobrook            | Courtney Court                   | Courtney Court Hoo Road Kidderminster   | Proposed Site  |
| 9  | Kidderminster       | Kidderminster East Hoo Road      | Adjacent Harriers Football Club   | Proposed Site Orange Site Share  |
| 10 | Bewdley             | Bewdley West                     | The Racks, Cleobury Road, Bewdley   | Proposed Site, Orange Site Share (Planning Application refused 03/04/08) |
| 11 | Kidderminster       | Sutton Farm West                 | Sutton Park Road, Severn Trent  | Proposed Site  |



|    | Area          | Site Name                 | Site Address   | Status     |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|--|------------|
| 1  | Kidderminster | T Mobile shop             | 9 High Street  | Site Built |
| 2  | Kidderminster | Kidderminster Market      | Kidderminster Market Auctions, Comberton Hill                | Site Built |
| 3  | Bewdley       | West Midlands Safari Park | West Midlands Safari & Leisure Park, Spring Grove, Bewdley   | Site Built |
| 4  | Kidderminster | T Mobile shop             | 9 High Street  | Site Built |
| 5  | Bewdley       | Cleobury Road SW          | Hales Park, Cleobury Road, Nr Kidderminster, Bewdley         | Site Built |
| 6  | Blakedown     | Harborough Farm           | Harborough Farm, Birmingham Road, Blakedown, Kidderminster   | Site Built |
| 7  | Kidderminster | Coniston House            | Coniston House, Grasmere Close, Hurcott Road, Kidderminster  | Site Built |
| 8  | Burlish Top   | BBC Kidderminster         | BBC Kidderminster Transmitting Stn, Burlish Top              | Site Built |
| 9  | Kidderminster | Courtney Block            | Courtney Block, St Cecilia Close, Kidderminster              | Site Built |
| 10 | Blakeshall    | Solcum Hill Fort          | Solcum Hill Fort, Moat Court Farm, Blakeshall, Kidderminster | Site Built |
| 11 | Stourport     | Stourport Workmen's Club  | Workmen's Club, Lickhill Road, Stourport                     | Site Built |

|  |               | Area                                | Site Name  | Site Address  | Status |
|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|--------|
| 1   | Stourport     | Stourport STW                       | Stourport STW,<br>Worcester Road,<br>Stourport                                   | Replacement of<br>existing 15m<br>telecommunication<br>s mast with a 20m<br>cypress tree style<br>mast Approved |        |
| 2   | Kidderminster | Kidderminster                       | 8 High Street,<br>Kidderminster,<br>Kidderminster                                | Site Built  |        |
| 3   | Kidderminster | Kidderminster<br>Bull Ring          | 10 / 12 Bull Ring,<br>Kidderminster  | Site Built  |        |
| 4   | Kidderminster | Luke Grant<br>Solicitors            | 55 Oxford Street,<br>Kidderminster   | Site Built  |        |
| 5   | Kidderminster | Mill Street                         | BT Kidderminster<br>TEC Centre, 75-78<br>Mill Street                             | Proposed  |        |
| 6   | Stourport     | Sandy Lane<br>Industrial Estate     | Stourport-On-Severn,<br>Worcester  | Site Built  |        |
| 7   | Kidderminster | Summerfield<br>Commercials          | Adj. A449, Worcester<br>Road   | Proposed  |        |
| 8   | Kidderminster | Land At Charlie<br>Brown Autocentre | Off Stourport Road,<br>Kidderminster   | Site Built  |        |
| 9   | Kidderminster | Entrance to Safari<br>Park          | Entrance to Safari<br>Park   | Proposed  |        |
| 10  | Barnet Hill   | Barnet Hill<br>Garden Centre        | Barnet Hill Garden<br>Centre, Worcester<br>Road, Barnet Hill                     | 18m high cypress<br>tree Approved   |        |
| 11  | Kidderminster | G P Automotive                      | B. Worcestershire &<br>Sherwood Foresters<br>Co. Off Tabbs<br>Gardens, Greenhill | Proposed  |        |
| 12  | Franchise     | Wolverley Road                      | Wolverley Road<br>Streetworks  | Proposed<br>(Application<br>refused 19/12/08)   |        |
| 13  | Rushock       | Land at Callimore<br>Farm           | Land at Callimore<br>Farm, Rushock   | Approved  |        |
| 14  | Kidderminster | Kidderminster<br>Golf Club          | Spennells Valley<br>Road, Kidderminster  | Site Built  |        |
| 15  | Blakedown     | Harborough<br>Farm,                 | Birmingham Road,<br>Blakedown  | Site Built  |        |



|    | Area             | Site Name                   | Site Address   | Status   |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 16 | Kidderminster    | Champney House              | St Cecilia Close,<br>Kidderminster                                   | Site Built   |
| 17 | Bewdley          | Hillcroft Caravan<br>Park   | Cleobury Road,<br>Bewdley  | Site Built   |
| 18 | Kidderminster    | The Rose<br>Theatre         | Chester Road North,<br>Kidderminster                                 | Site Proposed                                      |
| 19 | Kidderminster    | Kidderminster<br>Harriers   | Hoo Road,<br>Kidderminster   | Site Proposed                                      |
| 20 | Kidderminster    | The Cavalier                | Tennyson way,<br>Kidderminster                                       | Site Proposed                                      |
| 21 | Kidderminster    | Gainsborough<br>House Hotel | Bewdley Hill,<br>Kidderminster                                       | Site Proposed<br>(Application<br>refused 29/09/08) |
| 22 | Areley<br>Common | The Squirrel Inn            | The Squirrel Inn   | Proposed   |
| 23 | Stourport        | Land Adj.<br>Bewdley Road   | Bewdley Road,<br>Streetworks   | Proposed   |
| 24 | Blakedown        | Wolverley &<br>Cookley      | Blakedown The<br>Cedars, Axborough<br>Lane, Ismere,<br>Kidderminster | Site Built   |
| 25 | Stourport        | West of Minster<br>Road     | West Of Minster<br>Road  | Proposed   |

|  |                    | Area                   | Site Name  | Site Address     | Site Status |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--|------------------|-------------|
| 1   | Blakedown          | Bissell Wood           | Bissell Wood, Upper Dunclent Farm                      | Operational Site |             |
| 2   | Bewdley            | Bark Hill              | 60 The Racks, Bark Hill                                | Operational Site |             |
| 3   | Burlish Top        | BBC Kidderminster      | BBC Tower, Birchen Coppice                             | Operational Site |             |
| 4   | Shatterford        | Shatterford            | Land Adj Reservoir, Upper Birch Farm, Shatterford Road | Operational Site |             |
| 5   | Chaddesley Corbett | Tagg Barn              | Land Adj. Tagg Barn Farm, Kidderminster Road           | Operational Site |             |
| 6   | Stourport          | Stourport              | Stourport Police Station, Bewdley Road                 | Operational Site |             |
| 7   | Kidderminster      | Windermere House       | Grasmere Close   | Operational Site |             |
| 8   | Kidderminster      | Chips Away             | Chips Away, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, Worcester Road | Operational Site |             |
| 9   | Kidderminster      | Kidderminster Hospital | Bewdley Road   | Operational Site |             |
| 10  | Kidderminster      | Exchange Kidderminster | Kidderminster Exchange, Waterloo Street                | Operational Site |             |
| 11  | Rock               | Gorst Hill Farm        | Gorst Hill Farm  | Operational Site |             |
| 12  | Stourport          | Stourport Water Tower  | Mount Pleasant Hill, Bewdley Road North                | Operational Site |             |

| orange™ | Area          | Site Name                  | Site Address   | Site Status                        |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 13      | Stourport     | Frank Salt                 | Land At Ward Road, Sandy Lane Industrial Estate                  | Operational Site                   |
| 14      | Kidderminster | Arthur Drive               | G&L Sprosen Properties, Arthur Drive, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate | Operational Site                   |
| 15      | Habberley     | Habberley Golf Club        | Habberley Golf Club, Habberley Lane                              | Operational Site                   |
| 16      | Kidderminster | Hodge Nursery              | Hodgehill Farm, Birmingham Road                                  | Operational Site                   |
| 17      | Kidderminster | Kidderminster F C Car Park | Kidderminster Harriers, Hoo Road                                 | Operational Site                   |
| 18      | Bewdley       | Kidderminster Road         | Kidderminster Safari Park  | Operational Site                   |
| 19      | Kidderminster | Highway (Foley)            | Stourport Road, Kidderminster                                    | Planning Granted - Not Operational |

### 3. Key Issues

- 3.1 The roll out plans provide a snapshot of the operators existing and proposed sites for the 12 months following October 2008. It is acknowledged by the Mobile Operators Association (MOA) that they will not cover every eventuality and not all sites coming through the planning system either via an application or a pre application enquiry will be shown.
- 3.2 Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 the Council has received 2 notification applications and 3 full planning applications for telecoms equipment. These are listed below:

## Agenda Item No. 6

### Notification Applications received since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

| <b>Planning Reference</b> | <b>Date Received</b> | <b>Location</b> | <b>Description of Development</b>  | <b>Operator</b> | <b>Decision</b>  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 08/3008/TE                | 28/10/08             | Wolverley Road  | Installation of telecommunications base station & 14.4m high mast incorporating 3 No. antennas | Vodafone        | Refused 19/12/08<br><br><i>(included on 2008/09 roll out plan)</i>     |
| 08/3010/TE                | 21/11/08             | 60 The Racks    | 10m telegraph pole accommodating a shrouded tri sector antenna & equipment cabinet             | 3               | Refused 07/01/09<br><br><i>(not included on 2008/09 roll out plan)</i> |

### Full Planning Applications received since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

| <b>Planning Reference</b> | <b>Date Received</b> | <b>Location</b>                                     | <b>Description of Development</b>   | <b>Operator</b>        | <b>Decision</b>  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---|---|------------------------|--|
| 08/0180/FULL              | 25/02/08             | Land Adjoining 60 The Racks Bark Hill Bewdley       | Substitution of existing 12.5m high telecommunication mast for a 18m high cypress tree mast & additional equipment cabinets | Orange / O2 site share | Refused 03/04/08<br><br><i>(included on 2008/09 roll out plan)</i> |
| 08/0778/FULL              | 08/08/08             | Gainsborough House Hotel Bewdley Hill Kidderminster | Erection of flag pole style telecommunication mast with associated equipment cabinet  | Vodafone               | Refused 29/09/08<br><br><i>(included on 2008/09 roll out plan)</i> |

## Agenda Item No. 6

|              |          |   |  |    |  |
|--------------|----------|---|--|----|--|
| 08/1067/FULL | 08/12/08 | Highway<br>verge<br>Bewdley Hill<br>Kidderminster | Electronic<br>communications<br>base station<br>comprising a<br>monopole mast,<br>three shrouded<br>antennas and an<br>equipment cabinet | O2 | Refused<br>02/02/09<br><br><i>(not<br/>included<br/>2008/09<br/>roll out<br/>plan)</i> |
|--------------|----------|---|--|----|--|

- 3.3 Members will note that 3 out of the 5 applications above have been listed on the roll out plans. However Members may be aware of pre-application consultation exercises about other sites within their wards which are not included in the tables.
- 3.4 The MOA have advised previously that this can occur if perhaps a potential site identified by the operator cannot be progressed due to land ownership matters. This may result in two replacement sites to provide the required coverage. The roll out plan will not include replacement sites that will be required where an operator is served notice to quit an existing site and may not have had advanced warning. The MOA have advised however that the Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development states that operators should notify local authorities if significant changes are anticipated, for example if an additional ten sites are proposed.
- 3.5 The plans do however show the potential 'hot spots' within the district where there is particular demand for new sites as a result of existing poor coverage. This year's plans indicate that there is pressure to find sites at:
- The Racks, the Safari Park - Bewdley
  - Sutton Park Road, Tabbs Gardens - Kidderminster
  - Wolverley Road - Franche
  - Bewdley Road, west of Minster Road – Stourport on Severn
- 3.6 Following on from the 2007/08 roll out plan, the information also indicates that there is still interest in finding sites at:
- Mill Street, Kidderminster Harriers, Hoo Road, Summerfield Commercials, the Rose Theatre, The Cavalier, The Gainsborough Hotel – Kidderminster

- 3.7 At the Quarterly Members Briefing Session held in January 2009 when the roll out plans were first tabled, a query was raised by Councillor Mrs Oborski regarding the health aspects of mobile technology reported verbally by the French government.
- 3.8 There have been a number of reports in the English press since the new year which refer to an announcement by Jean-Louis Borloo, the French Environment Minister, who is seeking to legally prohibit the advertisement of mobile phones to children of less than 12 years of age. The French government is also aiming to set new limits to restrict radiation from handsets and to make it compulsory for them to be sold with phones so users can avoid exposing their heads to radiation. These reports follow warnings from the French Ministry that youngsters may be more sensitive to radiation from mobile phones because their bodies are still developing. The Ministry has recommended the use of mobile phones in moderation, avoiding making calls when the reception is poor or during high speed travel and the use of a hands-free kit. This advice is in line with the precautionary advice in the United Kingdom offered by the Stewart report which has informed current national planning policy guidance.
- 3.9 Members should note that at present the announcement by the French government is yet to be formally submitted to the French Parliament.

#### **4. Options**

- 4.1 At this evening's meeting there will be the third annual presentation by the Mobile Operators Association and representatives of the operators. Members need to decide whether they wish to continue with this annual arrangement.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- Scoping Form
- Notes from Seminar held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005 with representatives from the Mobile Operators Association and telecommunications operators
- Notes from the seminar held in 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005 with Dr M Clark of the Health Protection Agency
- Briefing Note dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 and accompanying site plan outlining the 2005/06 rollout information relating to the five telecommunications operators
- Mobile Phone Masts Review – Report of the Mobile Phone Masts Task and Finish Group – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006
- Recommendations from the Prosperity Panel – Cabinet Minutes from meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006

- Report to the Birmingham City Council: Review of the Siting of Telecommunications Equipment on Council Land and Premises
- Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 'Telecommunications – A Design Guide' from Coventry City Council (Draft document for consultation dated June 2005)
- Fact sheets:
  - How mobile phones work and the need for radio base stations
  - Electromagnetic fields and public health
  - Mobile phone base stations and health
  - Site sharing
  - Public exposure guidelines for mobile phone base stations
- Summary of recent reports on mobile phones and health (2000 – 2004) – Z J Sienkiewicz and C I Kowalczyk
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications
- Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development
- Presentation by the Mobile Operators Association given to Members of the Prosperity Policy Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007, and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

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