

Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Bristol Local Plan

**POLICY ADVICE NOTE NO.18**

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT**

Adopted October 2002



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Cover: 'Telespine' Sculpture by Concept Planning Group, Bristol/ Alan Baxter Associates, London, incorporating telecommunications equipment, Millennium Square, Bristol.



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol City Council supports the Government's view in Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG 8) Telecommunications (August 2001), that telecommunications are an essential and beneficial element of modern life. Fast, reliable and cost-effective communications can attract business to the city and help firms remain competitive. The Government encourages the city council to respond positively to the principle of telecommunications development proposals and not to question the need for the telecommunications system which the proposed development is to support. Applications for telecommunications development must also have regard to the Government's continued commitment to the quality of the built and natural environment. This commitment is supported by the city council and is consistent with policies in the 1997 Bristol Local Plan.
- 1.2 In the last few years there have been many changes to the telecommunications industry. The Government opened up the public telecommunications market to wider competition by granting licences to operators under the Telecommunications Act 1984. This Act gives some operators' special rights and obligations (set out in Schedule 2 to the Act - the Telecommunications Code) to provide a network within a set timescale. In Bristol, new telecommunications equipment has spread rapidly to meet the growing demand for better communications at home, in business, in public services and in support of electronic commerce. The most notable expansion has been in the mobile phone system.
- 1.3 The four current mobile phone operators - O2, T-Mobile, Orange and Vodafone - are required under their licences to provide coverage across Bristol. This requires a series of base stations to be strategically located across the city. The number of base stations required to serve the needs of Bristol's residents and businesses is increasing due to
- the number of customers using the respective networks. The third generation of mobile phones, '3G', is now operational and this enhanced data service requires additional base stations to be developed. An additional operator, Hutchison 3G, will also seek to establish a network of sites across the city. The five operators are known as 'telecommunications code system operators'. In addition, the operators mmO2 Airwave and Dolphin provide the TETRA system used both commercially and by the UK Emergency Services and road breakdown services.
- 1.4 The increase in demand for base station sites resulting from these additional services, will result in a growing number of applications from both the operators themselves and the agencies that control many of the sites, leasing them out to operators.
- 1.5 In order to limit visual intrusion, the city council attaches considerable importance to keeping the number of telecommunications base stations to a minimum and the sharing of sites is encouraged. Innovative and creative means of reducing visual impact is also encouraged. There are locations in Bristol that the city council considers to be more sensitive than others, such as Listed Buildings and prominent buildings of townscape merit, in accommodating telecommunications development. Where practicable, taking account of Operators' network requirements, these locations should be avoided.



*Antennae mounted on weather vane*



## 2.0 PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE

2.1 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is one of a series of Planning Advice Notes (PAN) produced by the city council to supplement policies contained in the Bristol Local Plan. PAN 18 provides detailed advice for all those with an interest in the provision of telecommunications development, including the city council, operators and the general public.

2.2 Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that an application for planning permission or appeal be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The advice contained in this PAN will form an important material consideration in determining planning applications for telecommunications developments. It provides further information on how Public Utilities Policy ME14 of the Bristol Local Plan will be applied and its objectives achieved. It takes account of appeal decisions and Government guidance set out in PPG 8.

2.3 Policy ME14 of the Bristol Local Plan (December 1997):

In determining planning applications for public utility developments, account will be taken of the technical and locational needs of operators and the benefits of minimising visual impact and obtrusiveness, with particular regard to the following:

- The efficient use of existing equipment and services (including, where appropriate, the sharing of masts, etc).
- The use of appropriate materials and colours, and the sympathetic use of screening.
- The character and appearance of the locality in which it is proposed.

2.4 An additional policy relating to telecommunications development has been proposed as part of the on-going Bristol Local Plan alterations process. Further changes to this PAN may occur as a result of this process.

2.5 With regard to telecommunications development, applicants should also have regard to other policies contained in the Bristol Local Plan which are relevant to the particular location and other circumstances of their proposal.

## 3.0 STATUS OF PLANNING ADVICE NOTE 18

3.1 This PAN will be taken into account as a material planning consideration when planning and permitted development applications are being considered. PAN 18 is derived from, and is consistent with, the 1997 Bristol Local Plan, the Joint Replacement Structure Plan, September 2002 and PPG 8 and as such, carries weight in considering proposals for telecommunications development.

3.2 In accordance with the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 (PPG 12) Development Plans (December 1999), this PAN has been subject to an extensive six-week period of consultation prior to it being formally adopted by the city council as SPG to the Bristol Local Plan. The Secretary of State is expected to give substantial weight to this PAN in making decisions on matters that come before him in relation to the provision of telecommunications development.

3.3 The relative support given by the Secretary of State to this PAN will be dependent on whether the matters set out on page 3 have been satisfactorily addressed:

SPG must be consistent with national and regional planning guidance and the adopted development plan.	PAN 18 is consistent with relevant legislation and guidance including the Telecommunications Act 1984, PPG 2 Green Belts, PPG 8 Telecommunications, PPG 9 Nature Conservation, PPG 12 Development Plans, PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment, the Joint Replacement Structure Plan and the 1997 Bristol Local Plan.
SPG must be cross-referenced to the relevant plan policy which it supplements.	PAN 18 relates specifically to Public Utilities Policy ME14 of the 1997 Bristol Local Plan. This is highlighted in the text of the PAN at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3.
SPG must be issued separately from the plan.	The Bristol Local Plan was issued in December 1997. This PAN has been prepared and published separately.
SPG must be made publicly available.	Hard copies of PAN 18 are available from Planning Reception at the city council offices at Brunel House and can be viewed and downloaded from the Bristol Local Plan website, <a href="http://www.bristol-city.gov.uk/localplan">www.bristol-city.gov.uk/localplan</a>
Consultation should be undertaken with the general public, businesses and other interested parties with their views being taken into account before SPG is finalised.	This PAN has been the subject of consultation. A statement of the consultation undertaken, the representations received and the city council's response to those representations is available together with PAN 18.
A statement of the consultation undertaken, the representations received and the local authority's response to those representations must be made available as a separate document.	As above.
SPG must be subject to a council resolution to adopt it as supplementary guidance.	The PAN has been the subject of an Executive decision formally adopting it as supplementary guidance.
The status of SPG should be made clear.	This has been clearly established. See paragraph 3.1.
<i>Source: PPG 12 Development Plans (December 1999)</i>	



## 4.0 PLANNING REMIT

4.1 All telecommunications development is subject to development control. However, some forms of telecommunications development do not require express permission from the city council as they are granted planning permission under Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) (as amended). This is subject to a number of provisions relating to the form, size, height and location of the proposed development. Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to do so, the government's 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development' recommends that operators should continue to advise the local authority of their intention to install any mobile phone antennae not part of applications for prior approval or planning permission. The various types of application for telecommunications development are set out in Section 5.0.



*Flagpole replacing antennae,  
1-2 St Augustines Parade*

## 5.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

5.1 The following guidance identifies the procedures undertaken by the city council in dealing with proposals for telecommunications development.

### *Minor Telecommunications Development*

5.2 Some minor operations or changes of use of land may not constitute development which requires planning permission. For example, many of the smallest antennae systems may be covered by the normal principle of de minimus; or they may not have a material effect on the external appearance of the building on which they may be installed, and therefore may not fall within the legal definition of development. Conventional television aerials and their mountings or poles and similar small telecommunications apparatus such as those similar in appearance to burglar alarms, will be treated as de minimus and not requiring planning permission. When proposed in relation to or within the curtilage of a Listed Building however, Listed Building Consent may be required.

5.3 The five telecommunications code system operators have historically been required under the terms of their licences to provide notification to the city council of their intention to install any telecommunications equipment that did not require prior approval or planning permission. Although this is no longer a statutory requirement, the 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development' advises that operators should continue to notify the local authority of the installation of mobile phone antennae.

### *Permitted Development Rights*

5.4 A number of telecommunications developments do not require full planning permission by the city council as they are granted planning permission under Part 24 of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning

(General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) (as amended). The following forms of telecommunications development are allowed under permitted development rights:

- The installation, alteration or replacement of any telecommunication apparatus;
  - The use of land in an emergency for a period not exceeding six months to station and operate moveable telecommunication apparatus required for the replacement of unserviceable telecommunication apparatus, including the provision of moveable structures on the land for the purposes of that use; and
  - Development ancillary to radio equipment housing.
- 5.5 The city council may intervene, in some circumstances, in the exercising of permitted development rights. It is a condition of the permitted development right to install certain telecommunications apparatus on a building so that it is, so far as practicable, sited so as to minimise its effect on the external appearance of the building on which it is installed in accordance with section 6.0 of this PAN. Intervention will be considered where there has been a departure from these requirements.
- 5.6 Under permitted development rights, telecommunications apparatus should be removed from the land, building or other structure, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is no longer required for telecommunications purposes. Such land, building or structure should be restored to its condition before the development took place, or to any other condition as may be agreed in writing between the city council and the developer. If this is not carried out, the city council may serve a breach of condition notice requiring the removal of the equipment.
- Development requiring an Application for Prior Approval*
- 5.7 Some forms of telecommunications development which are granted planning permission under permitted development rights, are subject to a 56-day prior approval procedure. Where planning permission for development is not required the operator will still be required to notify the city council of its intention to carry out the development. Following receipt of notification the city council will determine within 56 days whether prior approval of the siting and appearance of the development will be required. The procedures for prior approval applications are similar to those for full planning applications.
- 5.8 The prior approval procedure applies to the construction, installation, alteration or replacement (unless in an emergency) of:
- A ground based mast of up to and including 15 metres in height;
  - A mast of up to and including 15 metres in height installed on a building or structure;
  - An antenna (including any supporting structure) which exceeds the height of the building or structure (other than a mast) by four metres or more at the point where it is installed or to be installed;
  - Radio equipment housing with a volume in excess of 2.5 cubic metres;
  - Development ancillary to radio equipment housing, for example, fences and access roads; and
  - Class A development on Article 1(5) land or an SSSI which has not been excluded by paragraph A.1 of Part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order.
- 5.9 More comprehensive guidance on the operation of the prior approval procedure is set out in Annex 1 of PPG 8, including guidance on what type of proposed



development requires such an application. Any application submitted to the city council for prior approval for telecommunications development must fully accord with this guidance.

### ***Development Requiring an Application for Planning Permission***

- 5.10 Where development requires an application for planning permission, applications will be determined firstly in accordance with the Bristol Local Plan and secondly in relation to PAN 18 unless there are other material considerations that may be taken into account. Telecommunications developments requiring a planning application include: masts proposed in Conservation Areas and telecommunications development which would exceed a height of 15 metres above ground level.
- 5.11 The requirement set out in paragraph 5.6 regarding restoration, also applies to telecommunications development requiring an application for prior approval or planning permission. Conditions may be imposed on such consents to ensure that, if such development falls into disuse, any telecommunications apparatus is removed and the land restored to its former condition, or any other condition as may be agreed in writing between the city council and the developer.



*Antennae disguised as flagpoles*

## **6.0 INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS TO ENABLE FULL ASSESSMENT AND INFORMED PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

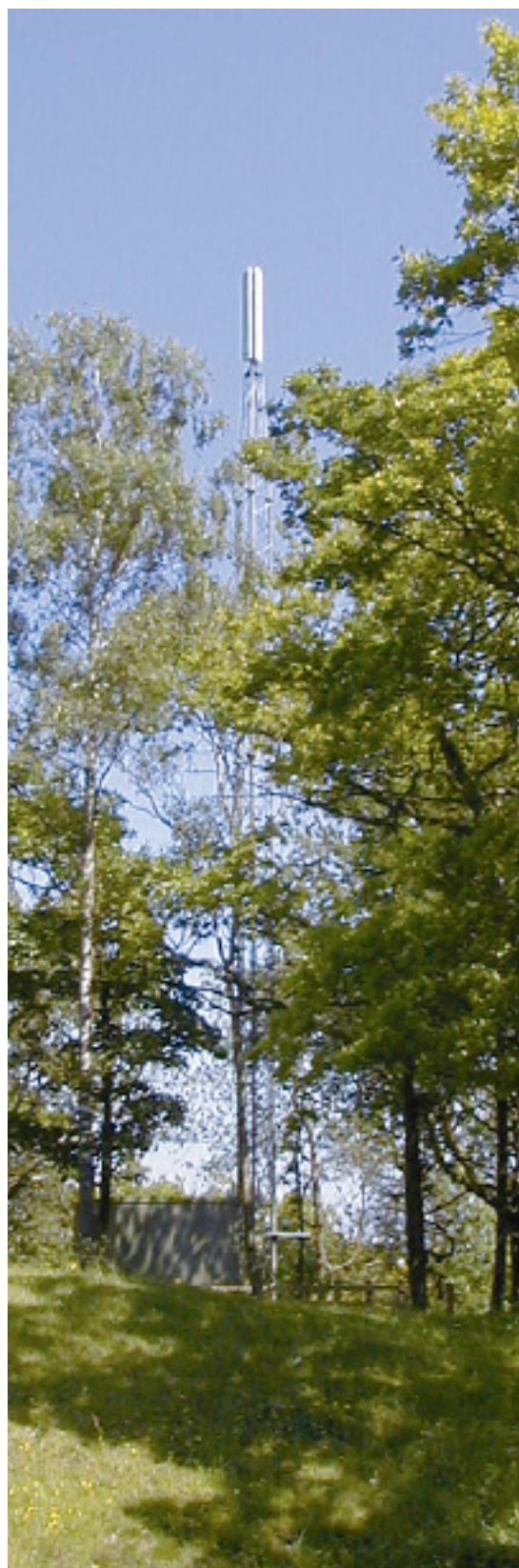
- 6.1 In order to enable the city council to fully consider the impact of telecommunications development and to enable an informed decision to be made, applications for prior approval and planning permission for telecommunications development must be accompanied by the following information:
- i. A written description of the proposed development (the 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development' 2002 suggests this should include details on site type i.e. macro or micro, type and dimensions of the structure, height of existing building and a statement justifying the choice of design);
  - ii. A plan indicating its proposed location (the 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development' suggests this should be to a minimum scale of 1:2500 showing the site clearly outlined in red; general site location; position of buildings within 100m of the site; and at least two public highways for reference where feasible);
  - iii. Notifications:
    - Applications for Prior Approval should include evidence that the Developer's Notice was served before the application was submitted.
    - Applications for Planning Permission should include evidence that the owner or agricultural tenant of the land to which the application relates has been notified of the proposed development;
  - iv. Where the proposed development consists of the installation of a mast within 3 kilometres of the perimeter of an aerodrome, evidence that the Civil Aviation Authority, the Secretary of State for Defence or the aerodrome operator (as appropriate) has been notified of the proposal; and
  - v. The appropriate fee.

- 6.2 In addition, the city council will normally expect an application for prior approval or planning permission to be accompanied by the following information:
- i. Evidence that the possible use of an existing mast, building or structure has been considered before submitting an application to erect a new mast;
  - ii. Information about the purpose and need for the particular development;
  - iii. Where the proposed development consists of the installation, alteration or replacement of telecommunications equipment on or near a school or college, evidence that the relevant body of the school or college have been consulted (by the applicant) about the proposal (see paragraphs 9.6 and 9.7).
  - iv. A statement that a proposed mobile phone base station, when operational, will meet the ICNIRP public exposure guidelines (See paragraph 8.1); and
  - v. A statement indicating the height of the proposed antenna, the frequency and modulation characteristics, and details of power output;
- 6.3 Additionally, the city council would also expect to see the following information included with full planning applications:
- i. Site layout plan (minimum scale 1:500) showing site boundaries; position of existing and proposed equipment and ownership by individual operator; any means of enclosure; the position of adjoining buildings and/or trees; any landscaping proposals; and the means of access.
  - ii. Where proposals are for the installation of equipment on existing buildings, a roof plan and existing and proposed cross-sections may also be required;
  - iii. A photomontage illustrating the proposed telecommunications development in context.
  - iv. An O.S. base map (1:25,000) showing the cell centre, existing sites within the cell and location of adjoining cells;
  - v. An O.S. base map (1:50,000 or 1:25,000) showing alternatives that have been considered;
  - vi. Confirmation of whether the 'Sitefinder' database has been checked for suitable sites (see paragraph 8.5);
  - vii. Details of public consultation including a Traffic Light Model Rating for the site (see paragraph 6.6 and the 'Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development')
- 6.4 It may also be necessary to make reasonable requests for further information to enable the city council to fully assess a proposal.
- 6.5 The city council welcomes recent initiatives towards the standardisation of supporting documentation and will assess constructively any proposals in the light of local circumstances.
- 6.6 The city council fully supports the introduction by the mobile phone operators of the 'Ten Commitments to best siting practice'. This initiative aims to increase consultation and involvement with the public and local planning authority at the pre-application stage in the process of siting radio base stations. Developers are encouraged to use the Traffic Light Rating Model to give a rating to both community issues and planning and environmental issues relating to each site. This rating is then used to assess the level of consultation required and develop a consultation strategy in discussion with Bristol City Council. This should be done alongside the statutory consultation required by the development control process.



## 7.0 SITING AND LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS

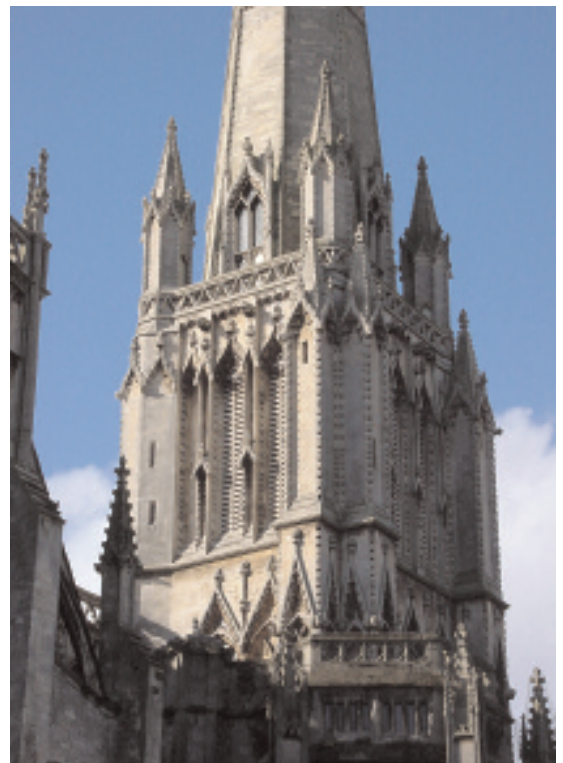
- 7.1 Major housing, office and industrial development schemes should consider how the telecommunications needs of future occupiers will be met. Adequate ducting for telecommunications cables should be installed both underground and in the structure of the buildings to meet this demand, minimising future disruption and the need for apparatus above ground. The provision of such communal or master antenna systems should be the subject of close consultation between developers and telecommunications operators.
- 7.2 In line with the Government's guidance in PPG 8 and Public Utilities Policy ME14 of the Bristol Local Plan, the city council recognises the need to minimise visual intrusion and obtrusiveness, and in particular, the need to protect the city's most sensitive environments including important buildings, places and spaces. Some telecommunications development may require particular locations in order to work effectively, which may involve sites within sensitive environments. Given that much of Bristol is designated as Conservation Area, demand for development within these locations is likely. High priority should be given to protecting such areas, and proposals should be sensitively designed and sited. The developer must also be able to demonstrate that there are no suitable alternative sites. The locations that the city council considers to be Bristol's most valued and sensitive environments and, therefore, the least appropriate for accommodating telecommunications development, are listed below. With the exception of Listed Buildings, these locations are identified on the Proposals Map to the 1997 Bristol Local Plan. Where practicable, telecommunications development should be sited outside of these locations:



*Siting of base antennae to limit visual intrusion*

### 7.3 *Most Sensitive Locations*

- Listed Buildings, their curtilage and settings.** All telecommunications development is subject to the normal statutory procedures insofar as Listed Building consent is concerned. Development should not adversely affect the character of Listed Buildings, their curtilage or setting. See Policies B13 Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings, and B19 Listed Buildings: Alterations, from the 1997 Bristol Local Plan; and PPG 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (September 1994);
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments.** There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not. Telecommunications development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation;
- Conservation Areas.** Telecommunications development should preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the city's designated Conservation Areas. Development which leaves their character or appearance unharmed should therefore be acceptable, but development that conflicts with these objectives will not be permitted;
- Important landscape features.** Prominent or strategically important landscape features identified within Policy NE2 of the Bristol Local Plan, which make a significant contribution to the landscape of the city, such as hillsides, promontories, ridges, valleys and gorges will be protected. Telecommunications development which would have a significant adverse affect on identified features of importance will not be permitted;
- Historic landscapes including historic parks and gardens and other designated landscapes of national and local importance.** Telecommunications development which would adversely affect the special interests of historic landscapes and, in the case of nationally important sites, their settings, will not be permitted; and
- Green Belt.** Telecommunications development in the Green Belt will not be permitted unless it maintains openness and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt (set out in paragraph 1.5 of PPG 2 Green Belts, January 1995). Inappropriate development may proceed only if very special circumstances are demonstrated which outweigh the degree of harm to the Green Belt. The lack of a suitable alternative site that would meet the needs of network coverage or capacity might be considered as very special circumstances.



*St Mary Redcliffe antennae concealed behind replica leaded window*



## 8.0 DETAILED DESIGN AND APPEARANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Design and appearance concerns will centre on the type of telecommunications development proposed. In considering proposals for telecommunications development, consideration will be given to height, ancillary development and the scope for landscaping and screening. However, the city council accepts that a material consideration is the special siting need of telecommunications equipment because of limited operating range or the need to maintain line-of-sight. The choice as to whether ground-based or building-based masts, antennae or cabins are the most suitable options will depend on the impact the proposal will have on siting and location criteria and on design and appearance matters. In general, the choice will depend on the impact on visual amenity, local character and appearance, skyline and neighbouring uses.
- 8.2 The city council encourages telecommunications operators to submit proposals of a high quality and innovative design. Applicants are encouraged to consider how telecommunications apparatus can be designed to further the city council's commitment to promoting public art and high quality design which makes a positive contribution to the built environment. Design should have regard to the local and wider context.



*"Telespine", Millennium Square*

- 8.3 In accordance with the Bristol Local Plan and in particular the policies of the Built Environment Chapter, Natural Environment Chapter and Policy ME14, in considering proposals for telecommunications development in Bristol, the city council will have regard to the following design and appearance matters:

- Consideration should be given to designing new apparatus to have a positive visual impact. Innovative, creative and distinctive design that does not adversely affect interests of acknowledged importance will be encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to provide a photomontage showing any proposal in-situ. This will normally be required for full planning applications;
- In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to consider screening or employing methods of camouflage where apparatus may otherwise appear unsightly. The appropriate choice of materials and colour should be employed;
- The height of the proposed telecommunications development in relation to surrounding land;
- The existence of topographical features and natural vegetations;
- The effect of the proposed development on the skyline;
- The effect of the proposed development on the street scene. Telecommunications development should be located sensitively with regard to visual amenity and pedestrian safety;
- The proposed development when observed from any direction, including from outside the city's administrative boundary; and

- The proposed development in relation to existing buildings and other structures. Where possible, use should be made of existing buildings and other structures, such as electricity pylons, to site new telecommunications development. A proposal for telecommunications development on a building will not be allowed if it would detract from the appearance and integrity within the street scene. Intrusive rooftop cabins will not be supported. Proposals for microcell apparatus (see glossary) on buildings should be sited so as to minimise visual impact. It is suggested that impact can be minimised by attaching microcell apparatus to certain street furniture, such as streetlights, floodlights, signposts and CCTV camera poles.

8.4 The sharing of masts and sites is encouraged where that represents the best design solution. The city council will have regard to the cumulative impact on the environment of additional antennae sharing a mast or masts sharing a site. In accordance with the conditions in code operators' licences, applicants must explore the possibility of sharing an existing site.

8.5 The city council utilises the Radiocommunications Agency's public database of Mobile Phone Base Stations, 'Sitefinder', which provides details of all operational, externally sited, cellular radio transmitters. Sites that are currently going through the planning process, are in the process of being built, are yet to be switched on, are no longer operational or are not cellular radio sites, are not included on the database. If an application for telecommunications development is submitted in a location, which is neither on the sites database nor the subject of a proposal yet to be fully implemented (as described above), the city council will expect the applicant to provide satisfactory evidence that the possibility of using such sites has been explored.

## 9.0 HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The Government's firm view in PPG 8 is that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains the 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 International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for public exposure to radio frequency radiation it should not be necessary for the city council, in processing an application for prior approval or planning permission, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them. The Government's guidance is reflected in this PAN.

9.2 The results of an investigation undertaken by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones, chaired by Sir William Stewart (known as the Stewart Group), were published in a report entitled 'Mobile Phones and Health' (May 2000). With regard to mobile phone base stations, the report states, "the balance of evidence indicates that there is no general risk to the health of people living near to base stations on the basis that exposures are expected to be small fractions of the guidelines. However, there can be indirect adverse effects on their well-being in some areas." The Stewart Group also reported that the possibility of harm cannot be ruled out with confidence and that gaps in knowledge are sufficient to justify a precautionary approach. The Government has broadly accepted the precautionary approach recommended by the Stewart Group and where appropriate, adopted this in PPG 8. For other issues, a commitment has been made to carry out further research and consultation in order to issue further advice in due course.



9.3 As part of the Government's precautionary approach, PPG 8 requires that radio frequency radiation emissions from mobile phone base stations must meet the ICNIRP guidelines to public exposure. These guidelines are more stringent than those of the Government's statutory adviser on such matters, the National Radiological Protection Board.

9.4 Although the exposure from mobile phone base stations will be many times lower than from using a mobile phone, the Stewart Group acknowledged that there was some public concern about base stations located on or near schools. The Group reported that there is evidence that at the frequencies used in mobile phone technology, children up to 16 years of age will absorb more energy per kilogram of body weight from an external magnetic field than adults. Furthermore, since children are being exposed to radio frequency fields from base stations from a younger age than adults, they will have a longer time in which to accumulate exposure over the course of their lives, and a longer time for any delayed effects of exposure to develop.

9.5 The pattern of radio waves emitted from a base station is generally even, but there is a zone within each cell where the concentration of waves will be slightly higher. The Stewart Group recommended, as part of its precautionary approach, that this "beam of greatest intensity" should not fall on any part of a school grounds or buildings without agreement from the school and parents. The Government recognises the importance of consultation with schools and parents and both PPG8 and the Code of Best Practice require operators to ensure appropriate consultation is carried out prior to submitting applications for prior approval or planning permission on or near to a school or college.

9.6 In determining whether consultation should be undertaken with a school (an institution providing education for children within the nursery (2-5), primary (5-11) and secondary (11-16) ranges) or college (an institution

providing full or part-time education for students over 16), account should be taken of whether the following factors apply:

- i. the proposed site is on school/college grounds or playing fields;
- ii. the proposed development would be seen from the school/college or its grounds;
- iii. the site is at a main access point to the school/college, used by pupils/students;
- iv. there is a history of concern within the community;
- v. the city council or the school/college itself have requested that they be included in any consultation.

9.7 In such cases, the minimum consultation requirements are:

- i. two copies of the standard letter to be sent recorded delivery to the school/college, one to the head teacher and one to the chair of the school of governors or equivalent for colleges.
- ii. the operator should allow a minimum of 14 days for response to the letters prior to submitting an application.



*Flagpoles at Cater House - one concealing three antennae*

## 10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Public Art and Development Consultation Draft, Bristol Local Plan Policy Advice Note 9 (Bristol City Council, 1996)
- Public Art Policy (Bristol City Council, 2000)  
Public Art Strategy, 2004
- Joint Replacement Structure Plan for the Former Avon Area (September 2002)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 General Policy and Principles (DTLR, 1997)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 Green Belts (DoE, 1995)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 Telecommunications (DTLR, 2001)
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- Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 Development Plans (DETR, 1999)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE, 1994)
- Telecommunications Prior Approval Procedures - Code of Best Practice (DETR, 1998)
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- Mobile Phones and Health Government Response to the report from the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones. (Stewart Group) (DoH, 2000)
- Mobile Phone Base Stations and Health (DoH, 2000)
- Code of Best Practice on Mobile Phone Network Development (ODPM, 2002)

## 11.0 GLOSSARY

### 11.1 *Antenna*

A device designed to transmit or receive electromagnetic energy.

### 11.2 *Cell*

Each radio base station provides radio coverage to a geographic area known as a cell through the transmission and receipt of radio signals to and from customers. There are three types of cells: macrocells, microcells and picocells.

### 11.3 *Equipment Cabinet*

The equipment cabinet forms part of the radio station and contains telecommunications equipment, electricity supply connections and air conditioning.

### 11.4 *Mast*

A mast is a ground-based or rooftop structure that supports antennae at a height where they can transmit and receive radio waves. Masts themselves play no part in the transmission of radio waves.

### 11.5 *Microcell*

Microcells provide additional coverage within built up areas where the volume of call traffic is high. Microcell antennae are usually smaller than macrocell antennae, and are mounted at street level on the external walls of existing structures, lamp-posts and other street furniture. They can often be effectively integrated into the existing building features and streetscape. Their range is limited and they transmit at a low power. They are increasingly required to cope with the growing demand and the new third generation of mobile phones.

### 11.6 *Macrocell*

Macrocells provide the largest geographical area of coverage and can be mounted on ground-based masts, rooftops or other existing structures, at a height not restricted by land or buildings.

### 11.7 *Picocell*

Picocells are usually sited inside buildings where coverage is poor, or where there are a high number of users, such as at airport terminals, train stations and shopping centres.

### 11.8 *Radio Base Station*

Radio base station is a term used for the whole telecommunications installation. It consists of transmitters and receivers in a cabin or equipment cabinet connected to antennae, and supports the structure as necessary. A radio base station can comprise of a mast, an existing installation on a building or rooftop, or street furniture such as street lamps. Without base stations, mobile phones will not work.



## 12.0 STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

- 12.1 At a meeting of the Environment, Transport and Leisure Executive on 5 December 2001, it was resolved that Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on telecommunications development be prepared, in order to provide greater clarity and certainty in making provision for telecommunications development.
- 12.2 Following a subsequent meeting on 28 February 2002, a copy of the Draft Planning Advice Note on Telecommunications (PAN 18) was considered and it was resolved that a programme of consultation be undertaken, the results of which were to be reported back with subsequent recommended amendments.
- 12.3 This draft version of the supplementary planning guidance was then subject to an extensive consultation process in March/April 2002 in accordance with government advice contained within PPG12. Views from a wide range of interested parties both within and outside the city council were sought.
- 12.4 This 6-week consultation process included a press release and newspaper advertisement; the placing of leaflets in public buildings such as libraries and Housing Offices; and individual letters inviting comment to:
- All head teachers and Chairs of Boards of School Governors
  - Community Groups
  - Residents and Tenants Associations
  - Local Amenity Groups
  - Government Office for the South West
  - Interest Groups including Mast Action UK, Powerwatch Group and Friends of the Earth
  - Government Agencies including English Heritage and the Environment Agency
  - Neighbouring Authorities
  - Federation of Electronics Industry
  - Telecommunications code system operators and their agents
- 12.5 The information contained within the consultation gave details of where the Draft PAN could be viewed and the period of consultation. The PAN was also available for viewing on the Internet at the Bristol City Council website.
- 12.6 26 letters were received in response to this consultation process, including 10 from the telecommunications industry, 7 from interest groups/amenity societies, 4 from other local authorities and others from the Government Office for the South West, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency. 2 responses were received from local schools/colleges.
- 12.7 These letters referred to 118 individual points, of which 106 requested changes to the PAN, 9 offered no comment and 3 expressed support.
- 12.8 Following careful consideration of these comments, 46 amendments to the PAN were proposed to:
- Address concerns expressed;
  - Ensure the PAN is in line with government advice;
  - Ensure the PAN is sufficiently robust to stand scrutiny at appeal; and
  - Provide clear and comprehensive advice for all those involved in telecommunications developments.
- 12.9 The PAN was then considered and formally adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Executive member for the Department for Environment, Transport and Leisure on 15th October 2002.



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