



Planning Policy
North Dorset District Council
Nordon
Salisbury Road
Blandford Forum
DT11 7LL

20 January 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN – PRE SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

The Mobile Operators Association (MOA) represents the four UK mobile network operators – 3, Telefonica (O2), EE (formerly Orange & T-Mobile) and Vodafone – on radio frequency, health and safety and associated town planning issues.

The MOA has commissioned Mono Consultants Ltd to monitor all emerging development plan policies and supplementary planning guidance relating to telecommunications development on its behalf.

Please find attached a response to the current consultation documents prepared by Mono Consultants Ltd on behalf of the MOA.

Yours faithfully,



John Cooke
Executive Director



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Our Ref: GH/MOA

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Dear Sir or Madam,

NORTH DORSET LOCAL PLAN – PRE SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

Thank you for your recent consultation on the above. We have considered the proposal relevant to the Mobile Operators Association and would offer the following comment on their behalf. We would take this opportunity to confirm our support for the inclusion of paragraphs 7.52-7.54 relating to telecommunications within the Pre Submission Local Plan.

As detailed in the Pre Submission Local Plan, it is recognised that telecommunications play a vital role in both the economic and social fabric of communities. National guidance recognises this through Section 5: "Supporting high quality communications infrastructure" of National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) which provides clear guidance as to the main issues surrounding telecommunications development.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at paragraph 42 confirms that;

"advanced, high quality communications infrastructure is essential for sustainable economic growth and play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services."

Paragraph 43 of NPPF confirms that;

"in preparing local plans, local planning authorities should support the expansion of telecommunications networks",

but should also;

"aim to keep the numbers of radio telecommunications masts and sites for such installations to a minimum consistent with the efficient operation of the network. Existing masts, buildings and other structures should be used, unless the need for a new site has been justified."

While the inclusion of paragraphs 7.52 – 7.54 provide a useful overview of issues surrounding telecommunications developments, it would be considered beneficial to include a criteria based policy for Development Management purposes.

On this basis we would suggest that a concise and flexible telecommunications policy should be included within the Pre Submission Local Plan. Such a policy should give all stakeholders a clear indication of the issues that telecommunications development will be assessed against. We would suggest a policy which reads;

“Proposals for telecommunications development will be permitted provided that the following criteria are met: -

- (i) the siting and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures should seek to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area;***
- (ii) if on a building, apparatus and associated structures should be sited and designed in order to seek to minimise impact to the external appearance of the host building;***
- (iii) if proposing a new mast, it should be demonstrated that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting apparatus on existing buildings, masts or other structures. Such evidence should accompany any application made to the (local) planning authority.***
- (iv) If proposing development in a sensitive area, the development should not have an unacceptable effect on areas of ecological interest, areas of landscape importance, archaeological sites, conservation areas or buildings of architectural or historic interest.***

When considering applications for telecommunications development, the (local) planning authority will have regard to the operational requirements of telecommunications networks and the technical limitations of the technology.”

We trust you find the above comments of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries relating to the above matters.

Yours faithfully



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