

**REPORT TO:** PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE -  
13 MARCH 2006

**REPORT ON:** VODAPHONE MASTS - LIGHTING STANDARD PROPOSAL

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

**REPORT NO:** 165-2006

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of a proposal by Vodafone for the integration of mobile phone masts with existing street lighting standards.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the proposal from Vodafone and remit officers to investigate this further and report back on the outcome of these investigations.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as a result of this report. The report back on the above investigations will provide further detail on any future financial implications, however, all installation costs would be borne by Vodafone and a payment would be made to the Council for the use of its street furniture.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Vodafone proposal would offer an alternative for the location of mobile phone masts that would minimise street clutter and the visual impact of such installations.

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equal opportunities implications.

**6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 As the demand for mobile phone services continues to grow, so does the need to balance technology demands and environmental concerns. Emerging 'third generation' (3G) mobile applications will bring tangible benefits, but have brought concerns about the siting of mobile phone masts. These concerns relate to potential health issues as well as concerns regarding the visual clutter created by the inappropriate siting of such masts.
- 6.2 Vodafone have recently approached the Council with a proposal that involves the fixing of their radio mast antenna and equipment to street lighting columns. This system has been used by a number of local authorities in England, although to date, no Scottish authorities have adopted such a system.

- 6.3 The antenna are very similar to those used in traditional mobile phone masts and would project approximately 2m above the top of the lighting standard. The antenna can only be attached to street lighting columns with a minimum height of 10m. An illustration of the proposed antenna is given in Figure 1 attached.
- 6.4 Vodafone will pay for all costs associated with the implementation of these proposals including the replacement of existing lighting standards with a stronger standard. In addition Vodafone would pay an annual rental charge to Dundee City Council for the use of their equipment.
- 6.5 The advantage that such a system offers is that it can reduce the street clutter and visual massing associated with the erection of a traditional phone mast in sensitive areas. It is recognised that it is unlikely to provide an appropriate solution in many areas, however it offers another alternative to the council in dealing with such proposals and would be appropriate in certain circumstances.
- 6.6 Planning permission would still be required to be obtained for all such installations. However, whilst the planning consent is subject to appeal and the decision of an independent party, the legal agreement between Dundee City Council and Vodafone would ensure that the approval of the Council would be required for all such installations.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are no background papers.

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