

Connecting Cambridgeshire Mobile Coverage Members' Briefing – 9 June 2022 – Q&As

- 1) Why can't Mobile Network Operators provide a comprehensive network plan so that the public and Members can see the whole picture rather than sporadic applications for masts/poles that are often in sensitive locations?

The challenge is that Mobile Network Operators' (MNOs) commercial sensitivities means they are reluctant to share their network maps or identify future plans. We are in the process of appointing a specialist planning resource with experience of telecoms funded by the Combined Authority as a single point of contact to work with MNOs, Members and the public to address this.

- 2) Are the people who are sensitive to radio waves more or less sensitive to 5G? (or is this vulnerability to a different type of wave?)

The frequencies that all of the current mobile technologies use are similar on the radio frequency spectrum. There has been no proven "sensitivity" to the radio frequencies used for mobile telecommunications.

- 3) Can the fact sheets and presentations be shared?

Please find here [links to the presentations and factsheets](#) from the session. The Mobile UK 5G fact sheets can be found here [#5GCheckTheFacts > Local Authority Toolkit | Mobile UK](#)

- 4) Can we have a similar approach to that of West Midlands where the local authorities work together to look at where there is need and suitability and then approach parish councils and communities?

We are looking to take a similar approach to West Midlands with greater engagement with the MNOs to understand their wider plans. We are already engaged with each of the 4 main MNOs and have provisionally agreed with them to arrange a meeting with the new planning officer resource once they are in place to discuss their plans. Engagement with the communities would then take place at an appropriate point.

- 5) We had two applications in our ward. One was for an area where we have just planted a wild flower patch and another where we know a multi-level building is going up that would overshadow the pole. How will these issues be dealt with?

These are the type of issues we hope to address with greater engagement between the MNO, our planning team and the communities.

- 6) Can we have a full briefing to parish councils in South Cambs so that Parish Councils can also look at which applications may come through for their area and they can understand need and suitability of areas within their parish?

The amount of forward visibility of planning applications may be partially limited by commercial sensitivity however it is intended that full engagement with Parish Councils will take place to discuss the best solutions to provide improved connectivity to their area as soon as practically possible.

- 7) Are there any other providers but 3, applying for these applications?

All 4 main MNOs - EE, Three, Virgin Media O2 & Vodafone - have submitted multiple planning applications in Greater Cambridge since the beginning of the 2019-20 financial year.