

**UPDATE REPORT ON THE PRIOR APPROVAL APPLICATION FOR 5G MAST
AT CHICHESTER ROAD, ROMILEY**

Report of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive

1.0 MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

1.1 Committee is requested to note the contents of this report which is provided as an update to that presented 13th September 2021. The original report was requested by members to explain the process in connection with the application for prior approval for the installation of telecommunications equipment on Chichester Road, Romiley. This report provides an update on the case.

2.0 LEGAL POSITION

2.1 The legal position remains as outlined in the report of 13th September 2021. There are no legal updates to report.

3.0 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN RELATION TO THIS APPLICATION

3.1 Officers have entered into further dialogue with the telecommunications operator to explore options in respect of the mast. They were advised that costs associated with the relocation of the mast would be in the region of £100,000.

3.2 In addition to the cost of relocating a mast, an alternative site would need to be found. Any alternative site would need to facilitate the same level of network coverage as that proposed by the application with the scheme needing to obtain the appropriate permissions.

3.3 Dialogue has been maintained with local members, residents and William Wragg MP who have been advised that the Council is not in a position to fund the costs associated with obtaining appropriate permissions for the mast and the costs associated with its relocation.

4.0 ACTION TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL TO ELIMINATE SIMILAR ISSUES IN THE FUTURE

4.1 Processes and procedures have been amended to prevent a further occurrence of a mast benefitting from deemed consent. This includes addressing the system set up error which resulted in the initial miscalculation of the determination period, reminding Officers of the importance of ensuring that decisions are made at the earliest opportunity during the determination period as well as all telecoms applications being monitored closely.

5.0 SUMMARY

5.1 Whilst further discussions were held, they have not resulted in an acceptable solution being found. Members are advised that extensive work was

undertaken by both the Planning and Legal departments in exploring all options available to the Council.

5.2 It remains extremely regrettable that this situation has occurred, and the Council wishes to further express its apologies to residents for this situation.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 This report sets out the final position in respect of the mast at Chichester Road. It is extremely regrettable that the mast benefits from deemed consent due to an administrative error in the processing of the application which saw consent refused a day after the expiry date. Options to prevent the delivery of the mast were explored at length and engagement has taken place to establish whether the Council could assist and fund the relocation of the mast. Unfortunately, after due consideration it has been concluded that the Council cannot undertake to fund the costs of the works.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the Committee notes this report.

8.1 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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There are none.

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