

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SWDP 26: Telecommunications and Broadband

Broadband

- A. New development should be provided with superfast broadband or alternative solutions where appropriate, e.g. mobile broadband and / or Wi-Fi. Wherever practicable, superfast broadband capacity should be incorporated to agreed industry standards⁽⁵⁶⁾. Developers and infrastructure providers⁽⁵⁷⁾ should seek to facilitate this through early engagement.**

Telecommunications Development

- B. When considering telecommunications development proposals, the following factors will be taken into account:**
- i. Operational requirements of the telecommunication networks and the technical limitations of the technology, including any technical constraints on the location of telecommunications apparatus.**
 - ii. The need for the ICNIRP⁽⁵⁸⁾ Guidelines Guidelines (and / or any other relevant guidance in place at the time of the application) for safe emissions to be met.**
 - iii. The need to avoid interference with existing electrical equipment and air traffic services.**
 - iv. The potential for sharing existing masts, buildings and other structures. Such evidence and justification for any new site should accompany any application made to the local planning authority.**
 - v. The impact of the development on its surroundings with particular regard to the following criteria:**
 - The siting and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures should seek to minimise the impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area.**
 - If on a building, apparatus and associated structures should be sited and designed in order to seek to minimise impact to the external appearance.**

56 E.g. PAS 2016:2010: Next Generation Access for New Build Homes guide, or later updates; BT Openreach's Developers Guide to Telecommunications Infrastructure and Installation Issue 8, or later updates – see https://www.openreach.co.uk/orpg/home/contactus/connectingyourdevelopment/downloads/developers_guide.pdf.

57 Service providers can also include locally constituted groups looking to 'buy in' broadband services.

58 See Glossary

Reasoned Justification

1. Communication infrastructure includes telephone systems (both wired and mobile) and broadband. The benefits of having a modern and accessible system of telecommunications, wireless and electronic methods of communication to the south Worcestershire area will be significant. Increasingly the demand is for superfast broadband using fibre optic technology but there is no legal requirement to provide this facility. Legislation requires that copper wire telephone services are provided to all new development.
2. High quality telecommunications and broadband is also recognised in SWDP 7 on Infrastructure and in the supporting South Worcestershire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (SWIDP).
3. A digitally accessible south Worcestershire will allow people an enhanced freedom of choice about where and how they work, how they interact with services and facilities and how they promote and operate their businesses. A connected community is a more sustainable one, as it represents the opportunity for a reduction in car-based commuting and a commensurate reduction in carbon outputs and traffic congestion. It also promotes the idea of south Worcestershire as a suitable place for high technology activities and employment to take place.
4. The Government is committed to securing a world-class communication system. Currently, the main barrier to this is the availability of superfast broadband, especially in more rural areas.
5. The Framework (paragraph 43) recognises the role of advanced, high quality communications infrastructure in creating sustainable economic growth. The development of high speed broadband technology and other communications networks will also play a vital role in enhancing the provision of local community facilities and services.
6. Information from the Worcestershire County Council Research and Intelligence Unit (February 2012)⁽⁵⁹⁾ identifies a number of locations within the region where broadband “slow spots” are found, as well as areas that are scheduled for superfast broadband. These areas include the Worcester to Droitwich Spa corridor, Malvern and Evesham and their hinterlands.
7. Developments should provide for the physical requirements of communication infrastructure, allowing for future growth in service infrastructure. The provision of superfast broadband is important to support economic growth and in particular employment, educational and social needs across south Worcestershire.
8. Developers will be expected to facilitate the provision of broadband infrastructure as retrofitting can be expensive and delay the installation of IT services. This is important for commercial uses but is also sought by householders and in particular the increasing number of people who wish to work from home.

59 http://www.business-central.co.uk/BC/download/downloads/id/21/slow_spots.pdf

9. The delivery of broadband services across the south Worcestershire area at the planning and pre-occupation stages of development will help to ensure that the appropriate service is available to those who need it.
10. Worcestershire County Council's Local Broadband Plan, 'Connecting Worcestershire', was endorsed by the Secretary of State on 30 April 2012. This will help to co-ordinate and deliver the roll-out of network improvements across the region.
11. Development is required to have regard to the latest guidelines of the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection. These guidelines are for the protection of humans exposed to electric and magnetic fields in the low-frequency range of the electromagnetic spectrum. They are intended to provide protection against all established adverse health effects.