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## **MOBILE PHONE MASTS : COMMUNITY & COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on a framework for best practice being promoted by the Federation of the Electronics Industry (FEI) to address public concerns about mobile phone masts.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The FEI, in collaboration with the Local Government Association, has prepared:

- a list of 10 commitments for mobile phone operators; and
- a "traffic light" rating model to assess possible community and Local Planning Authority concerns.

A copy of the 10 commitments and the "traffic light" model are attached to this report.

- 2.2 The intention of the 10 commitments is to provide timely information about operators' roll-out plans and to enable early discussions about the location of masts.
- 2.3 The "traffic light" model provides a way of assessing the impact of individual proposals in an objective way.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The 10 commitments and "traffic light" model do not change the procedures for dealing with mast proposals, but rather seek to add positively to the process, both in terms of the publication of information about operators' forward programmes, and in terms of assessment of proposals prior to submission.
- 3.2 It is considered that, given the controversy surrounding proposals for telecommunication development, this initiative by the FEI merits support.

### **4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Concerns continue to be expressed about the health implications arising from the installation of telecommunications masts.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to comments from Members, the Federation of the Electronics Industry be informed that this Council supports the principles of the 10 commitments and the "traffic light" model. (HPS)

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**Background Papers:**

Letter from the FEI dated 15 August 2001 and accompanying papers

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