

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Chapter 14 - Development Management Standards

Motion from Councillor Joan Hopkins, Councillor Paul Mulville: 82172

Telecoms Masts

That the Chief Executive add a new Objective after objective DMSO225 Chapter Development Management Standards pg 637

Develop a strategy for the provision of critical telecom mast infrastructure on public lands to service signal black spots, which involves a constructive process of prior engagement between elected members, telecoms providers, public bodies and communities.

REPORT:

This motion is seeking the inclusion of a new Objective to provide critical telecom mast infrastructure on public lands to service signal black spots. The provision of telecoms infrastructure and its subsequent operation on public or private land is not a function of the Development Plan.

The Council recognises the importance of the need for high quality communications and information technology networks in assuring the competitiveness of the County's economy and its role in supporting regional and national development and the Council is committed to the continued development and improvement of the County's digital infrastructure and services. The widespread availability of a high-quality ICT network within the County will be critical to the development of our economy while also supporting social development. The Draft Plan supports the provisions contained within the *Fingal Digital Strategy 2020 – 2023* which provides a wider strategy with respect to the development of ICT within the County.

The Council therefore will continue to support the provision of ICT infrastructure such as broadband, telecommunication infrastructure, mobile phone coverage

and future technologies which may arise and the Council will continue to work with National Broadband Ireland to facilitate the delivery of high-speed broadband for the 8% of premises in Fingal where State intervention is required.

It is an objective of the Draft Plan to require all new developments (regardless of the number of units) to provide open access connectivity arrangements directly to the individual premises to enable service provider competition and consumer choice. The following Draft Plan policies should also be noted:

*'Policy IUP34 Provision of Telecommunications / Digital Connectivity Infrastructure
Facilitate the coordinated provision of telecommunications / digital connectivity infrastructure at appropriate locations throughout the County and extension of telecommunications infrastructure including broadband connectivity as a means of improving economic competitiveness and enabling more flexible work practices.*

Policy IUP35 Fingal Digital Strategy

Develop and support the implementation of the Fingal Digital Strategy 2020-23, to encourage and support communities and businesses to reap the full rewards of a digitally enabled society, including the completed rollout of public Wi-Fi hotspots as set out in the Fingal Public Wi-Fi Roadmap and as part of the WIFI4EU scheme.

Policy IUP36 Open Access Connectivity Arrangements

Consider provision of open access connectivity arrangements within new developments to enable service provider competition and consumer choice in line with the requirements of the European Electronic Communications Code (2018).

Policy IUP37 National Broadband Plan

Support the rollout of high-quality broadband throughout the County and facilitate the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and International fibre communications links, including full interconnection between the fibre networks in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Objective IUO48 High-quality ICT Network and Appropriate Telecommunications Infrastructure

Promote and facilitate the provision of a high-quality ICT network and appropriate telecommunications infrastructure in accordance with the Fingal Digital Strategy 2020-23 (and any subsequent plan), and to support broadband connectivity and other innovative and advancing technologies within the County, whilst protecting the amenities of urban and rural areas.

Objective IUO56 Open Access Connectivity Arrangements

Require all new developments to provide open access connectivity arrangements directly to the individual premises to enable service provider competition and consumer choice.'

It is considered that the policies and objectives set out above are sufficiently robust to encourage and support the provision of critical telecom mast infrastructure on public lands to service signal black spots. Fingal will continue to liaise with telecoms utility providers, to ensure the timely delivery of sufficient infrastructure. In this context, the content of the motion is considered to be adequately addressed and a new objective is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

No change to Draft Plan.