

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### **CE/27 – Telecommunications infrastructure**

**Requires broadband telecoms to be provided as part of the site infrastructure, and the facilities to be designed so as to minimise disruptive maintenance.**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	?	?	?	Depends on facilities provided and future developments in services. Could provide platform for delivering some services direct to the home, obviating the need for travel, which would affect fuel consumption. Structures for this infrastructure are assumed to be capable of integration into other buildings on the site without a substantial increase in need for aggregates, etc.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape	~	~	~	

and townscape				
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	Implicit advantage of limiting future disruption (to pavements, roads, etc.) by designing maintenance access as well.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	?	?	?	As for 1.2.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	?	?	?	Broadband infrastructure will be carried on cables/ducting. Any requirement to provide mobile telecoms capacity may require a new mast given the openness and lack of structures on most of the existing site.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	(+)	(++)	(+++)	Broadband / IT / internet facilities make available a wide range of services and facilities which would contribute to this objective, and also possibly help to address certain inequalities (see 6.2). The Councils, in discussion with developers and commercial service providers will need to consider what services could be made available to the community through this medium, recognising the risk that external providers will not necessarily provide employment or create wealth in the local community.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	+	+(+)	++	Pre-providing these facilities should reduce their cost, making them more affordable to all, while also providing a common and flexible platform for delivering, for example, services and facilities

				for specific faiths, and providing access to facilities and possibly homeworking opportunities for those with mobility problems and other parts of the community.
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	+	+	+	Impact depends on adoption but provides an additional medium for distributing information about community activities, public service information by the Council and other bodies, etc.
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	(+)	+	+(+)	Could provide local small businesses with access to services they might struggle to afford currently and which may help with competitiveness. As noted for 6.2, this could provide scope for new residents to telework, and prioritising this infrastructure is clearly consistent with the skill-base and a substantial part of the employment in the sub-region.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+	++	+++	Clearly supportive.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	+	++	+++	Consistent with sub-regional sectoral strengths and should also help to attract some service providers and employers.
<b>Summary of assessment: A beneficial proposal to provide high quality / high capacity telecoms infrastructure from the outset. This will provide a range of opportunities to attract employers and service providers; to deliver community information and possibly programming; to facilitate teleworking; home shopping and other services; and to provide the less mobile with access to a wider range of services than they can benefit from at present. Pre-provision should lower the unit cost of the infrastructure should make it more affordable to all, reducing any impact of income inequalities. One specific issue is the extent to which the infrastructure can be future-proofed as technology change rates imply that telecoms infrastructure could evolve during construction of the development. This suggests it may be difficult to deliver the policy requirement to minimise the impact of maintenance and other reasons for accessing the infrastructure during its working life.</b>				

***Summary of mitigation proposals:*** In negotiating with developers and service providers the Council will need to consider what is an appropriate range of services to be provided over this infrastructure, and the extent to which its capacity should be made available for locally-developed services (which will contribute to local employment and wealth creation) and how much should be provided for externally provided services.

***Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:*** Likely synergistic benefits will depend on the capacity and technology of the infrastructure, the nature of the services provided (and their knock-on impact on employment, competitiveness, etc.).