

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday 21 November 2019

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Rennes Room - Civic Centre

Members are invited to attend the above meeting.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Sharon Sissons, Democratic Services Officer (Committees) on 01392 265115.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -

Sills (Chair), Newby (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Branston, Buswell, Hannaford, Henson, D, Lamb, Lyons, Moore, D, Moore, J, Owen, Packham and Pattison

Agenda

1 Apologies

To receive apologies absence from Committee members.

2 Minutes

(Pages 5 -
26)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 12 September 2019, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September 2019.

3 Declaration of Interests

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

4 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

It is considered that the Committee would be unlikely to exclude the press and

public during the consideration of the items on this agenda, but if it should wish to do so, then the following resolution should be passed:

"RESOLVED that, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the particular items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

5 **Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 19**

Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support by 10.00am at least three working days prior to the meeting. Further information is available from Democratic Services on 01392 265115 and also on the Council web site - <https://exeter.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-meetings/speaking-at-a-committee/>

6 **Questions from Members of the Council Under Standing Order 20**

To receive questions from members of the Council to appropriate Portfolio Holders.

7 **New Scrutiny Progress - How Will It Operate**

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support to present.

8 **To receive a Petition - Halt 5G in Exeter**

(Pages 27
- 32)

To receive a petition referred from Devon County Council from the Exeter Halt 5G Group, which related to the Group's concerns regarding the installation of 5G transmitters in Exeter. The petition included an appeal to postpone the rollout of 5G in Exeter pending the outcome of an independent investigation.

Devon County Council had referred the petition, received in hard copy to Exeter City Council as the District Council with responsibility for planning permission in Exeter. The petition contained 107 signatures with 47 signatories identified with an Exeter address.

It should be noted that there is an ongoing petition on Change.Org from the Halt 5G in Exeter.

A briefing note is attached.

9 **Items for Consideration for Future Meetings**

- Exeter City Futures – Update on Progress
- Climate Change Neutral Agenda

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Thursday 16 January 2020** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

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PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 12 September 2019

Present:

Councillor Buswell (in the Chair for the meeting)
Councillors Atkinson, Henson, D, Lyons, Moore, D, Moore, J and Pattison

Apologies:

Councillors Sills, Owen and Williams

Also present:

Director (DB), Growth & Commercialisation Manager, Skills Manager, Building Exeter
Project Manager and Democratic Services Officer(SLS)

In Attendance:

Councillor Sutton	- Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder Climate & Culture
Councillor Foale	- Portfolio Holder for City Planning & Development
Councillor Harvey	- Portfolio Holder for Environment & City Management

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MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of Place Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June, 25 June 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

The minutes of the meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee held on 18 June 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct, subject to the following amendment:-

In Minute 36 (Towards Carbon Neutral Exeter) and a comment by Councillor D Moore should read, that the Council's approach with 'regard to building council houses to passive house standards should be commended'.

Reference was made to the following clarification at Council held on 23 July 2019, in respect of the statement 'that Exeter's Energy Recovery Facility was the largest single source of emissions' and the opportunity to place the statement in context: being one of a small number of strategic waste treatment facilities in Devon that treated waste from a catchment area well beyond the Exeter boundary. Incineration with energy recovery was environmentally preferable to disposing of waste to landfill. Diverting food waste, plastic and glass away from energy recovery and towards recycling, was the subject of a separate report to Place Scrutiny Committee and would reduce net carbon emissions, thus freeing up capacity at the Energy Recovery Facility to divert more of Devon's non recycled waste away from landfill.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

In accordance with Standing Order 19, five members of the public submitted questions on the potential roll out of 5G in the city.

A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and these, together with the responses from Councillor Foale, Portfolio Holder City Development & Planning are appended to the minutes.

OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT IN EXETER'S KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE

The Director presented a report which provided an update on options for investment in the Council's Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) and kerbside recycling service following the reports to Place Scrutiny Committee on 13 June, 25 June and Executive Committee on 9 July respectively. The cost variations which demonstrated an overall cost reduction were set out in the report. The major changes were the improved recycling containers that would be offered across the city and a reduction in costs for the enhancement of the Materials Reclamation Facility. He also highlighted the risks and was pleased to report that the proposal to use the new triple stack system would help to eliminate some of the existing injury risks to staff when collecting and lifting the existing 45 litre recycling caddies. This was very much the start of the process of the service design and with a current lead in time of 18 months for the delivery of the specialist vehicles, there was plenty of opportunity to finalise the service.

The Recycling Officer demonstrated the triple stacking bins, which were favoured after looking at their use by other authorities, and were designed to mirror the current footprint and height of the existing wheelie bins. The bins would be made out of recycled plastic and the main body were only available in black as the composition of the recycled material did not take any colour, although the flaps can be colour coded to make recycling easier. One advantage is that the manufacturer used the same plastic supplier which we send our recycled plastic to for processing. Discussions were at an early stage but there was a potential for all of our existing bins to be collected, recycled and used to make the new bin system.

The Recycling Officer responded to Members' questions:-

- the opportunities for any pests interfering with the waste were minimised by the three interlinked sections and stacked with the lowest section taking glass as the potentially heaviest material, the middle section taking recyclables such as cans, tetrapaks, plastic containers and a range of other recyclable material and the top section with the dedicated cover to stop water ingress to the paper and cardboard. It was noted that the containers all had drainage holes. The bins were designed to be wheeled out for collection as with the current wheelie bin collection service.
- the food waste caddy handles would also fit over the triple stack bin to ensure one unit could be wheeled to the collection vehicle.
- a colour coded scheme for the bins for those with disabilities was noted, but was not currently possible.
- the whole bin could be wheeled out into place for collection and in the case of any resident having concerns over access around their property such as in the case of steep steps, the Council offered assisted collections.
- there would be a range of different requirements and recognition that one size did not fit all and it would be necessary to ensure that individual needs were met. A household survey would be undertaken.

- donations of older black traditional bins following the roll out of the new triple stack bins would be welcomed.

The Director also responded to a number of Members' questions and advised the following:-

- that a considerable investment would be made over a ten year period and the service to return a small surplus each year. The investment at the Material Reclamation Facility was needed to avoid a failure of the plant and reduce the current shortfall for income expectations the recycling activity that was generally due to breakdowns. The kerbside collections would deal with most material but larger items should continue to be taken to the Recycling Centres at Pinhoe or Exton Road. The new fleet contract opted for lease hire rather than purchase to offer greater financial certainty and enable a more modern fleet. Currently there was no effective electric refuse vehicle but the market is moving swiftly and the new fleet contract will enable the Council to take advantage of any new technology.
- food waste would also be collected and taken to be processed in an anaerobic digestion plant, as part of a county wide contract for food waste. The storage of the food waste, prior to collection would be part of the changes at the MRF. More staff would be required overall, although the detail of the staffing arrangement had yet to be finalised.
- apprentices could potentially be part of the new service and there would be potentially for training new drivers from within the existing staff compliment.
- there were a number of tetrapack collection points in the city.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment and City Management referred to the commitment to change the way that waste was collected in the city. He referred to the consultation exercise when 71% of Exeter's' residents responded to improving the opportunities for waste collection. He also responded to a Member about the aspirations to increase recycling rates explaining that the waste hierarchy was to reduce, reuse and recycle. There was a move to reduce waste rather than place an emphasis on recycling rates, but it was felt that through that approach, recycling rates would rise. He quoted a key performance indicator which was the total amount of waste produced per household and Exeter was currently 4th lowest in the country, excluding London.

A Member also thanked the Portfolio Holder for the update and enquired about the future arrangements for collection of hygienic waste material such as nappies, if reusable nappies were not being used. The Recycling Officer stated that this would be considered in the new service design.

Place Scrutiny Committee requested Executive to support a recommendation to Council of the following:-

- (1) adoption of Option 4 (weekly kerbside-sort recycling collection, incorporating glass and food waste collection, with three weekly rubbish collection) and associated investment in the Materials Reclamations Facility; and
- (2) implementation of the chosen service of Option 4, and that a budget of
 - £200,000 is set aside from General Fund revenue reserves to provide the project management and assistance with roll out;
 - a capital budget of £2,105,000 is provided for the improved recycling containers; and
 - a capital budget of £1,500,000 to enhance the MRF.

INEXETER UPDATE

The Growth & Commercialisation Manager reported on the final year of the first InExeter term, 2015-2020, to keep Members up to date with activity delivered. She provided a copy of the BID Business Plan for the next five years and highlighted the main areas of interest:-

- the City Council's annual BID levy fluctuated each year, dependant on how many properties were owned by the Council that were vacant or occupied by the City Council. The City Council paid just over £15,000 in BID levies for the period 2019-2020.
- the City Council had a seat on the BID Board which was attended by the Portfolio Holder for Environment & City Management with support as part of her role.
- a BID Monitoring Meeting was held every quarter, which oversaw the BID levy collection.
- for the financial year ending 31 March 2018 total levies and other income collected had been over £500,000 which was invested back in to the business community and the city centre.
- a range of activities were included in an appendix to the report and the spend for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 included:-
 - Christmas lights switch on £73,000
 - City dressing, which included the colourful umbrellas £46,000
 - Hot wash and street cleaning £54,000
- this year InExeter granted sponsorship to support local community groups and event organisers. Some of these included:-
 - ECC Exeter Festival £1500
 - Exeter Fringe Festival £1500
 - Historic Buildings Trust St Nicholas Priory £500
 - Big Screen in the Park £1500
 - Exeter Pride £500
 - Plastic Free Exeter £1000
 - Quirk Theatre Christmas production £600
 - WOW Festival £600
- InExeter had recently extended its team with a new Business Engagement Officer to work with businesses within the BID area and a new Events Manager would be responsible for the delivery of a wide range of activities and events over a five year period.
- InExeter would be going to ballot in October 2019, if there was a yes vote the BID will continue for another five years. If there was a no vote, the BID will close on 31 March 2020. Businesses with a Rateable Value over £7,500 in the BID area were eligible to vote, as set out in a circulated map. This was discussed at Place Scrutiny Committee on 25 June.
- InExeter worked with the City Council on many fronts, through Visit Exeter on joint events and marketing campaigns, through the Growth team on supporting businesses and commissioning the Cleansing team for city centre street cleaning.

The Growth & Commercialisation Manager confirmed in response to a Member's comment that the BID area would be increased if the BID vote was successful. She also noted a comment by a Member about the challenges faced by the residents and businesses located there. In advance of the impending BID vote, the contract for the BID Welcome Team had been cancelled with a small part of their work being carried out by the Business Engagement team.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report and progress made.

The Skills Manager and the Building Exeter Project Manager submitted a report to update on the Building Greater Exeter initiative, which provided details of the progress since the launch, achievements and also plans for the next stages of development.

A presentation highlighted the overarching focus which was to support the construction sector across Exeter, East Devon and Teignbridge to address the skills and recruitment challenges it faced. In the South West, 27,200 new workers were expected to be needed by 2023, an annual recruitment requirement of 5,440. The initiative to inspire the future workforce and position construction as an attractive career prospect. They supported work placements locally by facilitating recruitment helped people continue their journey and upskill. There were now 28 project partners which had been achieved in little over a year and reinforced the level of commitment shown.

The Building Exeter Project Manager welcomed the level of collaboration in the construction industry, and particularly the construction companies who, whilst normally competing for business had come together to share best practice. They had been contributing towards a number of events to promote careers in the construction sector. They included the National Apprenticeship Show South West, the Apprenticeship Expo at Exeter College, Exeter City Council's Jobs Fair, a STEM Careers Fair and the Big Bang Fair SW where they had teamed up with Building Plymouth and where it had been possible to showcase the 180 plus job roles that were available in construction. She also referred to the Schools Engagement Programme, working with project partners and schools and included talking at careers assemblies, attending careers fairs and events, and helping to organise work experience or a site visit. They had also worked with Military Service leavers and feedback from partners showed that they were a valuable resource for the construction industry with potential employees having excellent transferable skills and a great work ethic as well.

As part of the initiative, the team had been working on another major project over a three year lifespan, the Building Growth SW Project to create a legacy of a continued impact on individuals in construction. This would focus on three areas of:-

- Communications to improve the image and perception of construction one of our project partners and funded opportunity for the construction industry training board and discuss in three areas;
- Soft skills development, and
- Pre-employment and training.

Matthew Cousins, the Commercial Director for Apex Scaffolding and Chair of the Building Greater Exeter Project was invited to recount how the project had benefited both him personally and the industry. He spoke about his experience and the benefits of attending the Big Bang event through the collaboration with Building Greater Exeter and being able to access the necessary resources. He recounted his experience of welcoming Service leavers to the industry as well as encouraging more women employees in the wider construction industry.

The Skills Manager also responded to a Member's comment about the work in progress in relation to apprenticeships in our own community and she discussed the work with the Heart of the South West LEP, as well as the future skills needed and approach to any new technology. She welcomed the opportunity to be a member of

the LEP Construction Skills Group to maximise innovations such as digital skilling to make best use of the technology that would inevitably come along. There were many challenges around the workforce and she hoped that these will be addressed through the Skills Strategy which would be presented to this Scrutiny Committee in the future.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

51 **DCC EXETER HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE MINUTES 9 JULY 2019**

The Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee minutes from the meeting held 9 July 2019 were received.

A Member commented on the Clear Channel advertising policy and suggested that some advertising may not be appropriate for young children or families, particularly in relation to the advertising of some lifestyle choices around food. A Member advised that she had carried out some work with Clear Channel in her role as a County Councillor, and the content for family appropriate advertising had been agreed by the County Planning Committee. Clear Channel attended every Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee meeting and she welcomed information relating to any inappropriate advertising. The Portfolio Holder Environment and City Management confirmed that the City Council was also involved to some extent in the positioning of the advertising boards, and he referred to a recent report to adopt an ethical advertising framework linked to the City Council's corporate priorities.

52 **UNDER STANDING ORDER 18 - PROGRESS ON THE USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS**

Councillor Diana Moore requested an item be placed on the agenda under Standing Order 18 regarding progress on the use of Single Use Plastics, and to receive an update on the Motion adopted by council on 24 April 2018 – see link <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/18qfCr9EqcADILs7EBer?domain=committees.exeter.gov.uk>

Councillor Sutton thanked Councillor Moore for raising this matter and reminded Members of the Council resolution and policy which was widely welcomed and supported and she was mindful of the commitment made. She undertook to address the requested information in the following terms:-

The progress and actions taken to implement the Council's policy to end single use plastics -

There had been a mix of progress with some positive changes and certainly Councillor Sutton was mindful that whilst there were a number of reusable cups in the Committee Room, the eradication of the one use cups available in the civic centre was not complete. There were areas where great progress had been made, but there was still more to do. She welcomed the collection of tetra packs, which Councillor Moore had raised earlier in the meeting, and plastic and coffee shop paper cups which was possible at brightly coloured orange, collection banks in the city. Sometimes it was necessary to consider the way that products were used as it could actually take more energy to produce a paper bag, rather than a plastic one. Small actions such as for example, saying no more often to products like straws, may ultimately mean that less are produced, of course there was still a need for straws to offer choices particularly for people with additional needs. The Ocean Recovery Project and partnership with Keep Britain Tidy had made an impact to address some of the plastic waste on the beaches which come from the fishing

industry. Bright orange containers had been placed on the harbour side at Bude and Padstow and marine plastics were being collected and brought back to the MRF in Exeter to be sorted and recycled into other products including for the construction of a stage at Glastonbury. She was proud to say that the City Council did not export any of the city's collected recycling and that may not be the case with some authorities.

A sustainable procurement stance at the City Council should be acknowledged, where before any procurement commenced, questions were already being asked about the procurement of the goods and services. Although this was not entirely resolved, there was an awareness and Councillor Sutton looked forward to the launch for staff of a "Plastic Less Fantastic" toolkit to work with suppliers towards the zero and single use plastic aim.

Details of the barriers to implementation and the proposed steps to overcome these -

Barriers did remain with some people not acknowledging that there were easy wins such as the correct disposal of their takeaway coffee cup. A number of initiatives such as the Council's Procurement Policy were working to overcome this.

Information about further steps planned to further implement the policy -

There had been some steps around the main strategic areas around carbon reduction and certainly it was all staff's responsibility to ensure that this ethos was woven into the fabric of all that we do. Staff had been asked to consider how they carried out their role, particularly in the move to the agile and flexible working culture, with more consideration of what was needed to do the job and what could be considered surplus to requirements. The Procurement Service Lead had been working hard with talking with the Council's Human Resources and staff to develop the Procurement Strategy to see how that could be further embedded into the culture through the Council's policies. At the special Place Scrutiny Committee on 18 June, it was requested that a biannual Committee meeting be held to look at such matters and collate all of the work taking place as part of the Tackling Climate Change work. Members were very supportive of that approach and progress was being made but there was more to do.

Councillor Moore thanked Councillor Sutton for her reply and she appreciated the challenge as some areas were beyond the Council's control. The Motion was fairly specific about the activities within the Council's control, and she was concerned about the attention to detail needed to reflect the bigger ambition. Nevertheless, she welcomed the helpful interim update and introduction of a Procurement Strategy, and looked forward to a further report back on progress.

Councillor Sutton would continue to discuss this with colleagues and make sure that this matter was presented to a future meeting.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.00 pm)

Chair

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Public Questions on 5G to Place Scrutiny Committee 12 September 2019

Councillor Foale Portfolio Holder City Planning and Development provided a response to the questions.

Rhiannon Augenthaler

With so many other pressing concerns the council might not have had the time so far to look into 5G and to consider that it is 5G that would be used for artificial intelligence, robots, virtual reality, driverless cars, automated factories, smart devices and home appliances and that the urban street lighting of Exeter, with minimal further upgrading can be enabled for future incorporation of wireless spectrum broadcast and that according to MP Ben Bradshaw there is a national target for most of the UK to be covered by a 5G signal by 2027 and that these apparent advances could lead to job losses, more addiction to virtual gaming and other forms of online entertainment - already considered to be a major mental health issue, more exposure to radiation as all our home appliances become wirelessly connected. Is the council aware of the technological advancements which the telecommunications industries are marketing and promoting and the negative social, psychological, physiological and emotional impacts it could have on the residents of Exeter?

Can you, the councillors of ECC please read and engage with the information provided at <https://www.5gspaceappeal.org/the-appeal>

And

<http://phiremedical.org/>

QUESTION

Between now and the next scrutiny meeting in November and would the council be willing to do your own research into 5G and wireless radiation prior to your scrutiny meeting in November?

RESPONSE - Councillor Foale advised that from a planning point of view this would only be worthwhile if it could inform the Council's formal decisions on 5G related development requiring planning permission. Current Government guidance states that provided operators submit a statement confirming compliance with International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, implications for health cannot be used as a planning reason for refusal. He added that on a personal level he hoped that colleagues on the scrutiny committee and it would be incumbent on them to make themselves more familiar with the information.

Ms Augenthaler asked Members to look at the issue of 5G, and to be mindful if they should care for their families, neighbours and community. She stated that 5G was a dangerous military grade technology and according to experts can be the cause of a number of health issues including cancer, degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia, effects on fertility, depression and even suicidal tendencies. She asked Members to read the information with their families in their minds.

Gabriele Simons

Ms Simons asked Members to note that the question was submitted to DCC meeting on 25 July, but was referred to Exeter City Council as the local planning authority.

The dangers of 5G are well documented, scientifically supported.

Why is Devon County Council considering implementing a system which is untested, undrilled, without evidence of its safety? Although councillors are elected, actions as important as this for the whole of humanity ought to be put to the public for decision. There will be no going back once 5G is installed. The only outcome will be more sick people, more demand on the medical system, more deaths, more suffering. Do members of DCC (and

beyond of course, e.g. members of parliament) not have children and grandchildren, wanting to ensure their safe future?

I for one do NOT wish for antennas to be placed on every streetlight in my street or any other just to speed up wifi (or so it is claimed!). I do NOT wish for my health or anyone else's to be put at risk deliberately. I view an uninformed installation of 5G as a crime against human rights.

QUESTION

Why it is that Brussels (amongst other places) has barred 5G until further notice, demanding safety evidence? Can the Council assure the public, myself included, in writing, with evidence, that 5G is safe? And will the Council declare itself responsible for all future claims, i.e. when people fall sick, without passing that on to other 'bodies'? Is the Council prepared to have an unbiased view, listening to both sides, to enable it to make an informed choice for the good of humanity rather than one controlled by money?

I would like to draw the Council's attention to various websites, there are many more:

<https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-05-19-5g-apocalypse-extinction-event-film-destroy-humanity.html>

<https://www.greenmedinfo.com/>

<https://www.radiationhealthrisks.com/5g-cell-towers-dangerous/>

<https://www.5gawareness.com/>

<https://ehtrust.org/key-issues/cell-phoneswireless/5g-networks-iot-scientific-overview-human-health-risks/>

<http://phiremedical.org/category/5g/>

<http://www.es-uk.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/V3-240419-NB-RAD-19-6151-ES-UK-ADVERT-APRIL-A3P.jpg>

RESPONSE – Councillor Foale referred Members to the previous response – and Council planning decisions on the health implications of 5G development which were constrained by national Government guidance. The current Government guidance stated that provided operators submit a statement confirming compliance with International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines, implications for health cannot be used as a planning reason for refusal.

He said also that he first became aware of this with the information. He could understand the frustration when the matter was referred by Devon County Council to Exeter City Council. We are a District Council and not scientists, however he felt it was incumbent on his colleagues to make themselves aware of the information.

Gabriele Simons responded and commented that the information was under the control of the media. She felt some fear that the Government and the technology industry had nothing positive to say about 5G but instead appeared to be bulldozing ahead despite the implications. She urged Members to undertake their investigations into 5G research and this new and untested research will affect us. She was particularly concerned about the cacogenic effects on children whose brains were still developing. She was happy to share any documents and discuss the matter further with Members.

William Wilson

As a former medical scientist I am very worried about the health effects of 5G telecommunications infrastructure. In a question put to Devon CC regarding this Councillor Roger Croad indicated that this was a district council responsibility and that he takes advice from PHE (Public Health England) who in turn follow the guidelines of the International Committee on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). However ICNIRP do not protect the public's health because they refuse to recognise the harmful non-thermal (i.e. biological) effects of Radiofrequency (RF) radiation, despite thousands of peer-reviewed articles from many respected scientists spanning many years. 5G may be much more dangerous in part because of the densification of mobile base stations required by this technology, its phased array antennae and very short wavelength. There have been NO SAFETY TESTS. For many years Lloyds of London and other insurers have refused to insure for illness caused by continuous long term low RF radiation.

QUESTION

Since the effects of 5G frequencies are unknown, untested and uninsurable will Exeter City Council adopt the Precautionary Principle and not proceed with the deployment of 5G infrastructure?

UNESCO definition of the Precautionary Principle

" When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm"

***RESPONSE** – Councillor Foale advised that the Council will not proceed with the deployment of 5G infrastructure as this is not its role. Telecommunications infrastructure for mobile phones was provided by the telecommunications operators who are licensed by central Government. He added his frustration that last year a number of telegraph poles were springing up in the city, and Exeter City Council were not consulted on this. He reiterated the view that the City Council and Members of the Scrutiny committee were not afraid to ask questions about this matter.*

William Wilson responded and stated that he was pleased to hear that. He was concerned also that the ICNIRP organisation were determining whether this was safe and yet refusing to acknowledge all of the research. The deployment of 5G was forming a familiar pattern whether the technology was shale fracking or the releasing of toxins into the air. He felt there was a lack of any sense of responsibility against men, women and children and the money justified the means to an end. He suggested this was insane.

Tere Wells (Mrs)

QUESTION -

If ECC are not responsible for the deployment of further WiFi/EMF radiation across Exeter and that the ruling comes from a higher more senior authority, ie Government level, will that higher authority release them from their responsibility of Duty of Care & Due Diligence that they are unable to apply, in writing ?

***RESPONSE** – Councillor Foale said that the questioner would have to ask a higher authority, although it seems unlikely.*

Given that each Councillor is responsible for the collective decision of the Council with any matter in hand, how does this higher ruling relate to the local public Health & Safety Policies regarding Exeter's population?

RESPONSE – *Councillor Foale again, you would have to ask the higher authority. He referred to the concern raised in respect of the Telegraph poles by the Council and also by the Member of Parliament even though we as a Council were unable to say no. Half of the telegraph poles have since been removed.*

Member would be discussing this matter at Scrutiny Committee in full in November and if there are any concerns these will come back to the attention of Members through the Executive and if deemed necessary will bring this to the attention of our Member of Parliament and take the appropriate action. He said as before it would have to be to a higher authority.

Tere Williams made a response and said that as her family and she was concerned about unborn babies and smaller children with their smaller body health body mass and skills and there was no independent research on brain body health. She referred to the petition which had been signed by over 200 scientists and people were calling for an independent study and progression of a peer review study and effects on children. She said that she would like the City Council to acknowledge this. The documents were a benefit to all to read.

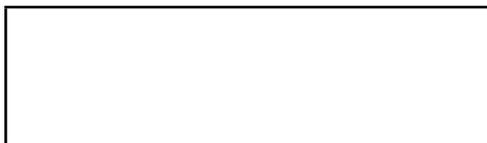
She circulated a leaflet which she asked Members to read

Wendy Brooking

QUESTION

In preparation for the councillors having a potential discussion about 5G at the next scrutiny meeting, following the presentation of a large petition from Exeter residents, could the councillors commit to informing themselves on the subject by looking at the following 5G space appeal from doctors and scientists. Thank you in advance for your due diligence:

<https://www.5gspaceappeal.org/the-appeal>



THE APPEAL — 5G Space Appeal

Even before 5G was proposed, dozens of petitions and appeals by international scientists, including the Freiburger Appeal signed by over 3,000 physicians, called for a halt to the expansion of wireless technology and a moratorium on new base stations. In 2015, 215 scientists from 41 countries communicated their alarm to the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO).

www.5gspaceappeal.org

RESPONSE – Councillor Foale said that this information was circulated to Councillors, who will also be advised that it does not supersede or override national planning policy guidance or the permitted development rights enjoyed by telecommunications operators. He added that this matter was the subject of a petition and following a referral from Council in October, the matter would be considered at this Scrutiny Committee on 7 November in a thorough manner.

Wendy Brooking made a response and wished to raise some key points that 5G had an effect on all living creatures that 5G degrades all bio systems and people's health was equally important. She referred to impartial evidence to back the statements she had made.

The Chair thanked the questions for their contributions and reassured them that this subject was the subject of a petition which would be referred to Place Scrutiny Committee from Council to be held on 15 October.

A Member asked if they could agree what action would be taken would be taken to help inform the debate as there seems to be a number of sources of additional information. She would also speak the Chair.

Councillor Atkinson proposed that the matter be discussed at the next meeting in Cllr Pattinson seconded the proposal. The matter was voted upon and agreed.

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CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 26 September 2019

Present:

Councillor Sheldon (Chair)
Councillors Buswell, Hannaford, Mrs Henson, Mitchell, M, Moore, D, Quance, A, Vizard and Warwick

Apologies:

Councillors Lamb

Also present:

Chief Finance Officer and Democratic Services Officer (MD)

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MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct, subject to the following amendments:-

Minute 22 – A Member requested an update on when the requested information regarding instances of modern slavery in Exeter and how they compared to other areas will be provided from the Policy Officer.

Minute 24 – A Member raised the question on the availability of the Pinhoe Community Hub receipts and when the receipts would be made available.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable interest were made.

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QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

No questions from members of the public were received.

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER

20

No questions from Members were received.

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OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report for the Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget for the first quarter, which advised Members of the overall projected financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2019/20 financial year after three months. He highlighted that the reports had been split into the HRA and General Fund reports to make them more appropriate to provide

information to Members and that the report also sought approval of additional expenditure for the financial year.

The Chief Finance Officer discussed the financial summary, which predicted that there would be an under spend of £120,500 against a revised budget of £19,966,520 and included the supplementary budgets of £1,394,660, which had been approved by Council in July 2019 for the first quarter. The General Fund budget was on track against the original budget projections. The projected year-end balance would be £3,822,992, which was above the £3 million minimum requirement set by Council in February 2019 and there were no significant issues to highlight in the report.

He referred Members to the request for approval for a supplementary budget totalling £493,930, which would be added to the 2019/20 budget and would be financed from CIL, earmarked reserves and the General Fund working balance. He noted that there would be a reduction of £3,744,492 to the projected General Fund working balance as a result. It was explained that the term virement was used for the transfer of funds from one financial account to another and that any transfers of budgets above £40,000 or between Directors' areas of responsibility would require Council approval.

The Chief Finance Officer explained that the Fair Funding and Business Rate reviews had been delayed by Central Government for a year and that as a result of the work already done, there was a likelihood of one off Funds being added to the General Fund reserves in next year's budget.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Finance Officer explained that

- There would be savings made during the financial year from surplus income which would be transferred to the General Fund reserves to support savings required for 2020/21;
- The term for 'Capitalisation of Officer time' was used when charging for a person's time in respect of building assets.
- There would be a likely impact to the net income from car parking, following the introduction of the Carbon Neutral City Policy, which was being considered by Senior Management as part of the ongoing project;
- The net figure for the Financial Services team would show a saving for the first half of the year while using agency staff. There was a national issue for recruiting qualified accountants based on public sector salaries. Currently two roles had been successfully filled, but additional recruitment agencies were being considered and the option for market supplementing salaries was being addressed;
- Debt write offs were legitimate debts that could not be collected and any error amounts would be cancelled. The total Council tax bill write offs would impact only 8% on Exeter City Council, however there were no Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to compare Exeter City Council against other authorities;
- The reported debt for the Civic Ceremonials, related to the shop next to the Guildhall and the difficulty in finding suitable tenants to let the shop. The debt would likely be written off, but was considered to be a one off issue. The main issues affecting the Civic Ceremonials budget would be for filling roles in this

department and costs of postage in elections. The layout and wording for this budget will be amended by the finance team to clarify the budget issues;

- Additional information on potential changes for the waterways budget would be provided to Members;
- The areas of risk was a new section in the report which highlighted risks outside of the Council's control and could impact on the budgets. The Planning Services Revenue budget figure related to issues with Planning which was a similar issue affecting the rest of Devon;
- There were no other unaccounted General Fund or HRA funds, and they had been reported correctly;
- The closure of the public conveniences had initially reduced the budget, but following the public conveniences consultation and the temporary re-opening of toilets, it had increased slightly over budget, but a confirmation of the budget increase would be provided to Members;
- The Environment and City Management budget transferred in relation to Clifton Hill was set aside for business rate costs for empty properties and demolition of Clifton Hill. These budgets would be transferred to Corporate Property;
- The City Point redevelopment had been approved last year and the budget was located under the Corporate Property budget for Environment and City Management in the report;
- The Chief Finance Officer would seek clarification from the Council Tax team and respond to Members regarding the level of prosecution for residents who did not pay Council Tax;
- Data for the car parking revenue and the Thursday parking tariff impacts would be provided to Members;
- The report explained the key variances in the budgets and did not cover all issues, however details on the cost for removing travellers and litter collection would be provided to Members;
- A risk rating of each of the areas of budgetary risk would be added to future reports.

Councillor Hannaford moved and was seconded by Councillor Mitchell to add an additional recommendation that consideration be made in relation to paragraph 9.7, subject to consultation with Human Resources and the Trade Union; was voted for unanimously.

The Chair moved and was seconded by Councillor Hannaford to add the additional recommendation to remove the shop attached to the Guildhall from that budget to Corporate Property in relation to paragraph 9.5; was voted for unanimously.

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive and Council to note and approve:

- (1) The General Fund forecast financial position for the 2019/20 financial year;

- (2) The supplementary budgets of £493,930 and budget virements as detailed in paragraph 9.10;
- (3) The outstanding Sundry Debt position as at June 2019;
- (4) The creditors' payments performance;
- (5) Consideration to be made in relation to paragraph 9.7, subject to consultation with Human Resources and the Trade Union; and
- (6) To remove the shop attached to the Guildhall from that budget to Corporate Property in relation to paragraph 9.5.

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GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report which advised Members of the current position in respect of the Council's revised annual capital programme and the anticipated level of deferred expenditure into future years. The report also sought Member approval to amend the Annual Capital Programme. Capital expenditure was a significant source of risk and uncertainty, with cost variances, delays and changes to larger complex capital projects.

Members were informed of the changes made to the Capital Programme since the previous meeting, in June 2019, and the Chief Finance Officer commented on the available capital receipts for the General Fund for 2019/20 which as at 30 June 2019 stood at £5,431,708. He reported on those variances and issues concerning expenditure in respect of those schemes being deferred to 2020/21.

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the completed schemes during the first quarter detailed in the report and advised that there was a request for an additional budget of £600,000 to be funded from the Transformation Fund to support the agile and flexible working project at the Civic Centre.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Finance Officer explained:-

- The budget and timetable implications to the City Point Development, following the recent unearthed Roman artefacts discovered on site were not currently known, but would be investigated and reported to Members;
- The Riverside Insurance payment meant that the budget would be increased, to cover the figure detailed in the report and would require Council approval;
- The available resources for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funded projects would be identified as they moved forward, but the New Homes bonus resources available was now a small figure;
- The cost for the planned works against the Pyramids, Leisure Centre Enhancements and Sport Facilities Refurbishment schemes was in addition to the original amount of £4.5 million and included in the underspend figures for the four schemes detailed in the report.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee supported the report and requested Executive and Council approve the following:-

- (1) The revision of the annual capital programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in 9.1 and Appendix 1; and
- (2) The additional budget request detailed in 9.7.

HRA BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1

The Chief Finance Officer presented the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Monitoring report which advised Members of the overall financial position for the 2019/20 financial year after three months. The report provided an overview of the budgetary over/under-spends reported to the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee and highlighted areas of risk, and budgets that were vulnerable to factors beyond Council control.

Members were informed of the HRA records expenditure and income relating to council dwellings and the provision of services to tenants. During this period, the total budget variances showed that there would be a net deficit of £1,453,485 in 2019/20, which represented a movement of £117,070 compared to the revised budgeted deficit of £1,336,415 for 2019/20.

The Chief Finance Officer commented on depreciation charges and how they related to valuation and maintenance of properties. Each year, the charge depreciated against the properties and impacted HRA funding as Council houses did not have the same accountancy value as the private sector. He confirmed that there were no projected variances reported at the end of the first Quarter.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Finance Officer explained:-

- The £105,000 sundry land maintenance tree inspector figure, did not include re-planting of trees. An additional budget was being setup for replanting of trees in the city and to potentially capitalising trees as an asset;
- The surrendering back to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) related to selling right to buy houses, of which 75% of the Capital receipts were given back to Central Government, when the Council was unable to spend them in line with the regulations and equates to £2.5million;
- Zebcat was a European Union (EU) funded energy efficiency project for retrofitting older homes. EU projects had a detailed claiming system and was being checked, but additional information on the project would be provided to Members.

Councillor Moore moved and was seconded by Councillor Hannaford to add an additional recommendation for the HRA Budget to recognise the importance of re-planting trees and an allocation for tree planting to be included in the budget, and was voted for unanimously.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive and Council to note and approve:-

- (1) The HRA forecast financial position for 2019/20 financial year; and
- (2) The revision of the HRA Capital Programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in Appendix 4; and
- (3) The HRA Budget to recognise the importance of re-planting trees and an allocation for tree planting be included in the budget;

ANNUAL HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report of the Council's Annual Health and Safety Report for 2018. Exeter City Council had the intention to be an exemplar of health and safety practice by continually improving its health and safety management systems and remain transparent with its approach to health and safety. He discussed the progress in meeting the statutory obligation for employees' safety and health at work and the progress in managing work-related stress. Members' attention was given to the reduction in the number of reportable accidents by 50% from the number reported in 2017, advising that the 16 incidents were reported in 2017 and halved to only eight in 2018.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Finance Officer advised:-

- Trade Unions would have been consulted on the health and safety report, however the concerns from Members on there being no mention of the Unions in the report would be fed back to Environmental Health and Licensing Manager;
- Details of potential stress related to agile and flexible working and monitoring staff wellbeing after its conclusion, would be requested from Environmental Health and Licensing Manager;
- The provision of a bollard on the pavement in front of the Customer Service Centre was recommended following discussions with other agencies and was being managed by the Civic Centre Manager;
- The Health and Safety Committee developed action plans and recommendations for health and safety matters, ensuring significant issues were raised and delivered;
- The absence of an Equality Impact Assessment in the report will be raised with the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager;
- Volunteer Staff who may require a separate approach to health and safety would be discussed with the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager;
- The changes to operational procedures involving the refuse lorry incident, detailed in the report, would be provided to Members in full;
- The risk assessment for kerbside recycling had been considered by the Place Scrutiny Committee and was included as part of the overall project.

Councillor Sheldon moved and was seconded by Councillor Hannaford to add an additional recommendation - for the Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Leader of the Council to be named as joint owners of the report, and was voted for unanimously.

The Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the Report and requested that:-

- (1) The Executive notes the content of the Annual Health and Safety report; and
- (2) The Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Leader of the Council to be named as joint owners of the report.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.06 pm)

Chair

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Petition- Halt the Roll Out of 5G in Exeter

A 'Halt the Roll Out of 5G (Fifth Generation) in Exeter' petition was handed in at the 25 July DCC Council meeting and the Petition was referred to Exeter City Council as the Local Planning Authority. Arguably, this demonstrates a misunderstanding of the City Council's role as we have little ability, even if Members were minded to, to 'halt' any planned roll out of 5G. While the Council could express any concerns on behalf of the public, the roll out of 5G is a nationwide programme and there is no expectation that any of the infrastructure will require planning permission unless the intention was to fit hardware onto Council buildings.

The Role of the Local Planning Authority

The City Council's main involvement with mobile phone masts and equipment, is through the planning process. This can involve the submission of planning applications, where the public are consulted, and prior approval applications, which essentially is a notification process, and the Council has limited planning control. Other telecommunication works, such as full fibre to properties, and telegraph poles, can be carried out under permitted development, and do not require planning permission. This legislation is determined at a national level.

In determining planning applications, we must consider relevant planning policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework (dated February 2019). Section ten covers supporting high quality communications (including 5G) and paragraph 112 states that planning policies and decisions should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections.

Paragraph 115 states applications (including prior approval) must demonstrate that consultation with relevant body where a mast is to be installed near a school or college has been carried out by the applicant. For an addition to an existing mast or base station, a statement that self-certifies that the cumulative exposure, when operational, will not exceed International Commission guidelines on non-ionising radiation protection. Applications for a new mast or base station, should include evidence that an existing site cannot be used, and a statement that self-certifies that International Commission guidance will be met.

Local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure.

Plans for Roll Out in Exeter

Research indicates that there are no plans to roll out 5G in Exeter either this year or next. Therefore if there were any plans to do so, the earliest timescale would be 2021. Most of the equipment, and potential locations for equipment, such as on lamp posts, are on Devon County Council land. Unless equipment is on our land, there is very little involvement for the City Council

What is happening locally is the increase of fibre networks to enable better connectivity and this could be used for future 5G roll out.

What is 5G?

As with previous cellular technologies, 5G networks rely on signals carried by radio waves - part of the electromagnetic spectrum - transmitted between an antenna or mast and your phone.

We're surrounded by electromagnetic radiation all the time - from television and radio signals, as well as from a whole range of technologies, including mobile phones, and from natural sources such as sunlight.

5G uses higher frequency waves than earlier mobile networks, allowing more devices to have access to the internet at the same time and at faster speeds.

These waves travel shorter distances through urban spaces, so 5G networks require more transmitter masts than previous technologies, positioned closer to ground level

Analysis on Health Risks (BBC News website August 2019)

The electromagnetic radiation used by all mobile phone technologies has led some people to worry about increased health risks, including developing certain types of cancer.

In 2014 **the World Health Organization (WHO) said that "no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone use"**.

However, the WHO together with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified all radio frequency radiation (of which mobile signals are a part) as "possibly carcinogenic".

It has been put in this category because **"there is evidence that falls short of being conclusive that exposure may cause cancer in humans"**.

Eating pickled vegetables and using talcum powder are classed as having the same level of risk.

Alcoholic drinks and processed meat are classed as higher risk.

A toxicology report **released in 2018 by the US Department of Health**, and pointed to by those expressing safety concerns, found that male rats exposed to high doses of radio frequency radiation developed a type of cancerous tumour in the heart.

For this study, rats' whole bodies were exposed to radiation from mobile phones for nine hours a day every day for two years, starting before they were born.

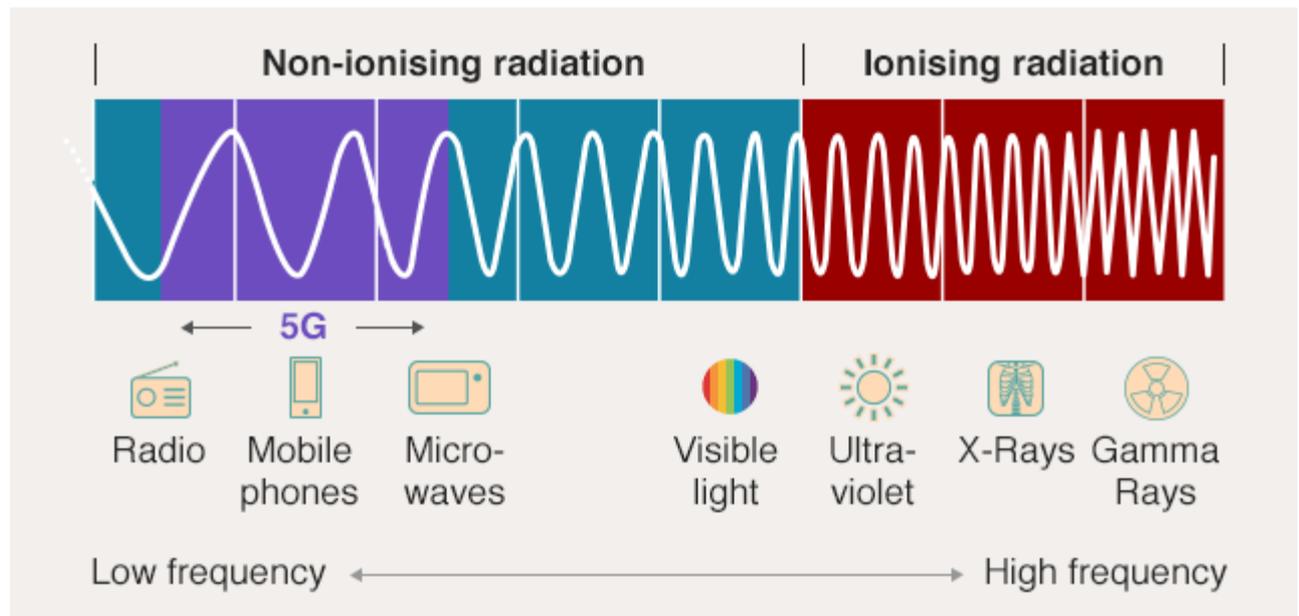
No cancer link was found for **the female rats or the mice studied**. It was also found that rats exposed to the radiation lived longer than those in the control group.

A senior scientist on the study said "exposures used in the studies cannot be compared directly to the exposure that humans experience when using a cell phone", even for heavy users.

Dr Frank De Vocht, who helps advise the government on mobile phone safety says "although some of the research suggests a statistical possibility of increased cancer risks for heavy users, the evidence to date for a causal relation is not sufficiently convincing to suggest the need for precautionary action".

However, there is a group of scientists and doctors who have written to the EU calling for the rollout of 5G to be halted.

Where 5G fits in the electromagnetic spectrum



Source: SCAMP/Imperial College London/EBU

BBC

Radio waves are non-ionising

The radio wave band - used for mobile phone networks - is non-ionising, "which means it lacks sufficient energy to break apart DNA and cause cellular damage," says David Robert Grimes, physicist and cancer researcher.

Higher up the electromagnetic spectrum, well beyond those frequencies used by mobile phones, there are clear health risks from extended exposure.

The sun's ultra-violet rays fall within this harmful category, and can lead to skin cancers.

There are strict advisory limits for exposure to even higher energy radiation levels such as medical x-rays and gamma rays, which can both lead to damaging effects within the human body.

"People are understandably concerned over whether they might elevate their risk of cancer, but it's crucial to note that radio waves are far less energetic than even the visible light we experience every day," says Dr Grimes.

"There is no reputable evidence," he says "that mobile phones or wireless networks have caused us health problems."

5G transmitter masts

5G technology requires a lot of new base stations - these are the masts that transmit and receive mobile phone signals.

But crucially, because there are more transmitters, each one can run at lower power levels than previous 4G technology, which means that the level of radiation exposure from 5G antennas will be lower.

The UK government guidelines on mobile phone base stations says **radio frequency fields at places normally accessible to the public are many times below guideline levels.**

What about heating dangers?

Part of the 5G spectrum permitted under international guidelines falls within the microwave band.

Microwaves generate heat in objects through which they pass.

However, at the levels used for 5G (and earlier mobile technologies) the heating effects are not harmful, says Prof Rodney Croft, an adviser to the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

"The maximum radio frequency level that someone in the community could be exposed to from 5G (or any other signals in general community areas) is so small that no temperature rise has been observed to date."

Limits to exposure

The UK government says "while a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves is possible when 5G is added to the existing network, the overall exposure is expected to remain low".

The frequency range of the 5G signals being introduced is within the non-ionising band of the electromagnetic spectrum and well below those considered harmful by the ICNIRP.

"The exposure that 5G will produce has been considered in great depth by ICNIRP, with the restrictions set well below the lowest level of 5G-related radio frequency that has been shown to cause harm," says Prof Croft.

The WHO says electromagnetic frequency exposures below the limits recommended in the ICNIRP guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence on health.

Going forward, 5G will be essential for some critical scenarios, such as:

- remote surgery with doctors controlling devices from across the world
- assisting users with health and social care decisions
- the ability to monitor and control whole factories remotely and in real time will prove transformative in the world of industry
- 5G will enable you to download a movie in seconds, or to stream a 4K movie without any buffering

- controlling your fridge, lights and car
- 5G will be fundamental to the rise of autonomous cars

Information is also sought from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health>

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