

Subject:	Items referred from the Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019		
Date of Meeting:	12 November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 To receive the following petition which was debated at and referred from the full Council meeting held on the 24 October 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition be noted and a report on the issue provided for consideration at the next available meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board.

3. CONTEXT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 To receive the following extract from the minutes of the full council meeting held on the 24 October 2019 setting out the petition and recommendation for the committee to consider as detailed.

To Halt the Rollout of 5G Technology.

Lead Petitioner – Irina Blosse

Additional Information:

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to halt the rollout of 5G technology in Brighton & Hove and invoke the Precautionary Principal adopted by the EU in 2005 which states: "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." We, the residents of Brighton & Hove, insist that our City Council invoke the Precautionary Principal regarding 5G technology and all associated infrastructure before deploying it in our city. We (the residents) now call for independent research and for the City Council to prove to its constituents that 5G is SAFE and poses NO risk to human health, animals, wildlife, insects, birds and the ecosystem as a whole. Once 5G is deployed fully, it will expose people 24/7 to mandatory radiation without their informed consent, which constitutes a blatant breach of their Human Rights. WE DO NOT CONSENT UNTIL PROVEN SAFE

- 3.2 Extract from full Council:

COUNCIL

4.30pm 24 OCTOBER 2019
HOVE TOWN HALL, - COUNCIL CHAMBER

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Miller, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson and Williams.

PART ONE

38 PETITIONS FOR DEBATE.

(1) TO HALT THE ROLLOUT OF 5G TECHNOLOGY

38.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of two such petitions and noted that there was an amendment to the cover report's recommendation for the first petition from the Green Group. The Mayor also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed as Item 45 (6) Safe School Walking Zones on the agenda and stated that she was minded to take the motion along with the second petition and to have one debate on the matter.

38.2 The Mayor then invited Ms. Gillian Foote to present the petition on 5G technology.

38.3 Ms. Foote thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition which had been signed by 2,240 people called on the Council to halt the rollout of 5G technology in Brighton & Hove and invoke the Precautionary Principal adopted by the EU in 2005 which stated:

"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."

She stated that the residents of Brighton & Hove, insisted that the City Council should invoke the Precautionary Principal regarding 5G technology and all associated infrastructure before deploying it in our city. We (the residents) now call for independent research and for the City Council to prove to its constituents that 5G is SAFE and poses NO risk to human health, animals, wildlife, insects, birds and the ecosystem as a whole. Once 5G is deployed fully, it will expose people 24/7 to mandatory radiation without their informed consent, which constitutes a blatant breach of their Human Rights.

38.4 Councillor Moonan thanked Ms. Foote for presenting the petition and stated that she hoped she could give her and the petitioners some reassurance. Public Health England (PHE) took the lead nationally and provided expert advice on public health matters associated with mobile phone technology. We have liaised with PHE to get the

latest information and guidance and to seek their advice on whether there are any health risks for the public. PHE have told us that the current exposure of the general public to radio waves is well within the international health-related guideline levels that are used in the UK. They said that when 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area the overall exposure to radio waves is expected to remain low relative to these guidelines. As such there should be no consequences for public health.

5G is now being rolled out across the country and UK network operators implementing 5G are committed to complying with the current guidelines. The ability of councils to influence the roll-out of mobile technology is limited by central government regulations and we are unable to adopt a policy to halt the roll out of 5G. But the planning system does require that any new installations are consistent with the international guidelines PHE adheres to.

The council has a vital role to play in encouraging economic development in the city, and digital connectivity is a key part of this. It's particularly important as our local economy has such a strong specialism in the creative, digital and IT sectors. We're keen to promote the most up-to-date and effective mobile and wireless technology for work premises in the city. Our residents also expect this in their homes and on their phones.

Councillor Moonan also stated that she was happy to accept the amendment from the Green Group.

- 38.5 Councillor Osborne moved the amendment on behalf of the Green Group and stated that it was felt that more information was required so that councillors understood the situation and hoped that it could be supported.
- 38.6 Councillor Powell formally seconded the amendment and reserved her right to speak in the debate.
- 38.7 Councillor Bagaen stated that the matter was an interesting topic and raised important concerns which he had raised with the Director of Public Health England and had been assured that there was no evidence of a danger to health. They maintained precautionary advice on the limited information they had and he suggested that more should be done to get the involvement of mobile operators.
- 38.8 The Mayor noted that was Councillor Bagaen's maiden speech and congratulated him on behalf of the council.
- 38.9 Councillor Powell noted the comments and sated she had nothing to add.
- 38.10 Councillor Moonan thanked everyone for their comments and sated that she would be happy to explore the matter further at the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 38.11 The Mayor thanked Ms. Foote for attending the meeting and presenting the petition and noted that the amendment had been accepted. She therefore put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 38.12 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and a report on the issue provided for consideration at the next available meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board.

