

Overview and Scrutiny Board

Report subject	Call for Evidence – 5G Connectivity
Meeting date	23 rd September 2019
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This is an information report setting out the process and purpose of a scrutiny call for evidence on the matter of 5G connectivity, and next steps for the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board following receipt of this evidence.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that the Overview & Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) receives representations on the matter of 5G connectivity during its meeting of 23 September; (b) notes the option for representations to also be submitted in written form as outlined at paragraph 7; (c) notes that all representations made in line with a and b above will be provided to the Board for discussion at the meeting of 11 November.
Reason for recommendations	<p>The O&S Board has agreed to undertake a call for evidence in relation to 5G connectivity. Residents, businesses, organisations and academia of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole have made representations to the Council and the O&S Board agreed to receive verbal submissions at its meeting of 23 September on the matter of 5G. Written responses have also been invited and an Officer report requested to outline the background facts in relation to 5G connectivity.</p> <p>The gathering of views in this call for evidence will allow the O&S Board to gain a better understanding of the level of public interest and the breadth of views in relation to 5G. Evidence gathered will be considered by the Board in November.</p>

Contributors	Lindsay Marshall, Overview and Scrutiny Specialist Ruth Spencer, Sector Growth Manager, Creative & Digital Environment
Wards	All wards
Classification	For Recommendation

Background detail

What is an Overview and Scrutiny Call for Evidence?

1. The Council's Constitution sets out six principles for the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function, one of which is that the 'voice and concerns of the public' will be 'heard and reflected in the Council's decision making process'. Under the Local Government Act 2000, O&S in local government has the power to look at anything which affects 'the area, or the area's inhabitants'.
2. The call for evidence model mirrors that of Parliamentary Select Committees, which gather evidence to gain an understanding of an issue under review or potential issue for review. This allows those undertaking a review to gain a better understanding of the areas of importance for respondents. A review of evidence called by the Overview and Scrutiny Board in this way can be effective in determining the scope of a potential area of inquiry work, to ensure that outcomes of work are meaningful and can add value to the Council and its residents.

Reason for the Call for Evidence on 5G Connectivity

3. The call for evidence on 5G connectivity is invited to ensure that the work plan of the O&S function is responding to matters of importance to the public. Residents, businesses, organisations and academia of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole have made representations to the Council in relation to the introduction of 5G connectivity to the area. The call for evidence provides an opportunity for a better understanding of the level of public interest and breadth of views in relation to 5G connectivity.
4. An Officer report outlining the background and facts relating to 5G connectivity has also been requested by the Chairman of the O&S Board and is appended to this report at **Appendix 1**.

Key Lines of Inquiry

5. At this initial stage, the following broad questions have been posed to respondents:

- What are the perceived benefits to the area as a result of the implementation of 5G?
- What are the perceived concerns relating to the implementation of 5G?

Options for respondents and timescales

6. At its meeting of 9 September, the O&S Board agreed to receive views on the matter of 5G at its meeting of 23 September 2019. A period of 1.5 hours has been allotted, from 4pm, to provide opportunity for members of the public to attend and address the Board in this respect. Guidance has been published on the Council's website and supported by a communications plan to advertise this opportunity (a link to the published guidance is cited as a background paper at the end of this report).
7. An opportunity for submission of written evidence has also been provided in line with the timescales outlined in paragraph 8 below. Written submissions will be gathered and provided to Board members for consideration upon the close of the submission window.

Timescales

8. Timescales and procedure for this call for evidence are outlined below. Any further work commissioned upon consideration of the evidence submitted will have separate timescales associated.

Stage	Date	Activity
Opening date for call for evidence (written submissions)	10 September 2019	Written submissions can be provided in the following ways: Email: 5GEvidence@bcpcouncil.gov.uk Post: The O&S Specialist, Democratic Services, BCP Council, Town Hall, Bourne Avenue, Bournemouth, BH2 6DY
Overview and Scrutiny Board	23 September	Opportunity for verbal submissions. Speakers can inform 5GEvidence@bcpcouncil.gov.uk of their

meeting, at: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AZ	2019 4-5.30pm	intention to speak by no later than 12 noon, Friday 20 September 2019. A maximum of 5 minutes per speaker will be provided on a first come first served basis. Equal opportunity will be provided for perceived concerns and benefits to be expressed.
Closing date for call for evidence (written submissions)	7 October 2019	All submissions will be circulated to Overview and Scrutiny Board members for consideration after this date.
Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting	11 November 2019	Submissions received through the call for evidence are discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Further action determined. Time and venue of this meeting will be confirmed and advertised on the Council's website.

Review of information received and next steps

9. At its meeting of 9 September, the O&S Board agreed to receive responses to the call for evidence at its meeting of 11 November. At this stage the Board will be asked to discuss:
 - the evidence received through the call for evidence – verbal and written submissions;
 - the Officer report providing information on 5G connectivity.
10. The intention of a call for evidence is to gain a better understanding of the public feeling in relation to an issue prior to the commissioning or scoping of detailed work. This will ensure that any work undertaken by O&S in this respect is informed and meaningful in its objectives. Upon review of all information received in the call for evidence, the O&S Board will be asked to make recommendations for future action as appropriate. Options available to the O&S Board may include further inquiry work led by overview and scrutiny; recommendations to other parts of the Council or organisations that are external to the Council, or no further action. Options will be outlined in full at the O&S Board meeting of 11 November.

Councillor Involvement

11. Representations have been made to the Council citing potential health implications relating to 5G connectivity. For this reason, members of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been invited to attend the O&S meeting of 23 September to hear the views provided. Should further O&S inquiry work be commissioned, it is recommended that a member of the Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee should be included in this work.

Summary of financial implications

12. There are no financial implications associated with the call for evidence

Summary of legal implications

13. There are no legal implications associated with the call for evidence

Summary of human resources implications

14. There are no human resources implications associated with the call for evidence

Summary of environmental impact

15. There are no environmental impacts associated with the call for evidence

Summary of public health implications

16. There are no public health implications associated with the call for evidence

Summary of equality implications

17. There are no equality implications associated with the call for evidence. The aim of the call for evidence process is to provide a range of opportunities for all those with an interest in the matter of 5G connectivity to engage with the Council on the matter in order that all views can be taken account of.

Summary of risk assessment

18. There are no risks associated with the call for evidence.

Background Papers

'Call for Evidence – the Implementation of 5G Connectivity to the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) area'

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/documents/s12581/5G%20Call%20for%20Evidence.pdf>

Appendices - Appendix 1 – '5G Background and Information'