**London Microcell Proposals – Regional Policy**

**Supportive Guidance within the London Plan**

The London Plan sets out the Mayor’s planning strategy for Greater London and contains strategic thematic policies, general crosscutting policies and more specific guidance for sub-areas within the Metropolitan Area. In Paragraphs 1.38-1.41 ‘Ensuring the infrastructure to support growth’, the Plan recognises the strategic importance of providing the necessary infrastructure, including modern communications networks, that London requires to secure its long-term growth.

It is considered that the TEF and VF networks are an integral element in securing the Mayor’s vision for the delivery of modern communications networks across London. More specifically, the proposed development is entirely consistent with and will help to implement the strategic objectives contained in Policy 4.11 ‘Encouraging a Connected Economy’ of the Plan. Policy 4.11, and its written justification, is clearly supportive of the proposal and the role that it will perform in allowing Vodafone and Telefónica UK Ltd to provide additional 3G and 4G coverage to the surrounding area.

The aim of the Infrastructure Plan is to enable fast, ubiquitous access to the internet from mobile and fixed devices. Chapter 16 of the Plan indicates how the London Mayor’s Office shall support an economically viable mix of technologies including fibre broadband, mobile broadband and future methods of wireless internet delivery to address the capacity crunch in the short term as well as aiming to make London the first capital city in the world to deploy 5G in the 2020s. This document is supported by the report Raising London’s High Speed Connectivity to World Class Level. As detailed within these ‘Digital Connectivity’ is now considered the fourth utility. Internet access not only affects the productivity of businesses and proves essential to the future growth of many firms, it is also vital for many residents to take part in modern society (as more services move online).

The Mayor’s Office works with central government and London’s local authorities to ensure that strategic communication networks are enabled rather than inhibited by the planning and other regulatory systems (whilst ensuring the utility works themselves are properly managed).

The Telefonica and Vodafone networks are integral elements in securing the Mayor’s vision for the delivery of modern communications networks across London. More specifically, the proposed development is entirely consistent with and shall help to implement the strategic objectives contained in the London Plan and London Infrastructure Plan.