



Board Direction

Ref: PL06S.245662

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 11th February 2016. The Board decided by a majority of 2:1 to grant permission in accordance with the reasons, considerations and conditions set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- (a) the national strategy regarding the improvement of mobile communications services,
- (b) the guidelines for Planning Authorities on "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures" issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government (1996),
- (c) Circular Letter PL 07/12 issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts to update certain sections of the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures" Guidelines,
- (d) the policies of the planning authority in relation to telecommunications networks, as set out in the South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2010 - 2016, including its strategy to facilitate the enhancement of the telecommunications infrastructure to maintain economic competitiveness,
- (e) the analysis undertaken of potential alternatives to the proposed development, and the stated need to improve the quality of telecommunications services in this area, including the submission from the Director of ICT of the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght, provided with the appeal documentation, and
- (f) the nature, rooftop location and modest scale of the proposed development,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the condition set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would not be prejudicial to public health. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to refuse permission, the Board had regard to the stated need to improve the quality of telecommunications services in this area, including the services on the N81 National road, regional roads, within the hospital campus itself, and to the analysis undertaken of potential alternatives in particular. The Board noted the Inspector's concern that the maps submitted by the applicant did not indicate a significant quantitative increase in coverage area; however, the Board was satisfied that the increase in service quality, and reduction in congestion on surrounding telecommunications sites, was clearly described in the application and appeal documentation on file. The Board accepted the applicant's assessment of the unsuitability of the existing DN144 site, and did not share the Inspector's view in relation to the implications for public safety of improving telecommunications services in the vicinity of the road network.

The Board noted that the planning authority had decided to refuse permission on the basis that the proposed development would constitute a material contravention of the development plan. In making its decision, the Board had regard to the guidelines for Planning Authorities on "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures" issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government (1996), as amended by Circular Letter PL 07/12, and was satisfied that, by virtue of Section 37(2)(b)(iii) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, it was not constrained in granting permission for the development.

CONDITION

PlansPartic

Board Member: _____ Date: 17th February 2016
Fionna O' Regan