

## 5. WOOSH WIRELESS - TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANY

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The purpose of this report is to seek an in principle decision from the Council to establish an agreement to licence sites on Council-owned land for Woosh Wireless's network requirements.

### CONTEXT OF THE REPORT

Woosh Wireless, as a network operator in the broadband internet market, has approached the Council expressing a desire to establish cell sites on Council-owned land. Woosh's current aim is to establish between four to six sites within Christchurch in the short term, with a longer-term view that a larger rollout of sites may occur. At this stage no details are known of its longer-term requirements.

Initially the only proposal for the occupation of Council-owned land and the target property is the rooftop of the Civic Offices in Tuam Street.

Currently the Council has a protocol and licence agreements, which both Telecom and Vodafone have entered into. This outlines a process for obtaining consent to use Council-owned land. This process is working well, and sets out the requirements and obligations of both parties. It is envisaged a similar agreement could be extended to Woosh Wireless. This base licence sets out the requirements for individual site agreements.

### A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

Woosh Wireless has presented an expression of interest for the utilisation of the rooftop of the Civic Offices to locate three cell sites on three corners of the building which include a satellite dish and panel antennae on each corner (see attached examples of equipment).

Prior to consenting to the establishment of these sites, Woosh Wireless would be required to agree to the protocol and the terms of a licence similar to those in place with Telecom and Vodafone before any individual site agreements could be issued. The current protocol provides for consultation to be undertaken for a high impact site, such as this and in particular where Council staff are potentially affected in their working environment. This consultation would include public notices and consultation with the building owners within the vicinity. In addition to this, a public open day would also need to be held which would allow those persons who utilise the building to gain a better understanding of the impact of the site if constructed.

### ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

To date Woosh Wireless has not expressed interest in utilising any Council-owned assets other than the Civic Offices. The Civic Offices are considered a contentious site because of the number of staff within the building. Officers considered it prudent therefore to seek an "in principle" decision from the Council before going to the expense of negotiating and entering into a licence agreement with Woosh Wireless.

The cell sites as indicated are larger than those typically constructed by Telecom and Vodafone (typically low impact facilities) and would therefore be deemed high impact sites.

**Recommendation:** That the Council decline the request of Woosh Wireless to locate three cell sites on the rooftop of the Civic Offices building, owing to the close proximity of the creche.