

**Written statement of a non-key officer decision**  
**Director of adults and communities**

<b>Title</b>	<b>BT consultation on phone box removal spring 2020</b>
Decision maker	Director of adults and communities
Date of decision	5 May 2020
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve the retaining of 6 at risk public phone boxes, in full working order, in response to a formal consultation by British Telecom (BT). As set out by Ofcom, BT has an obligation to consult with Herefordshire Council with regard to the proposed removals. In some cases, a payphone can still be essential local service, where there is unreliable mobile coverage and in the absence of mobile access.
<b>Decision</b>	<b>That:</b> <b>(a) the council object to the removal of 6 public call boxes in the county due to relevant factors, as detailed in Appendix 2.</b>
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50033601">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50033601</a>
Consultation	Phone box users, via posters displayed early January by BT notifying consultation and signposting to the council to raise any concern. Parish councils and Ward members contacted by end of January, with phone box details and asked to consider options and feedback local decision in respect of interest to retain or adopt the phone box.
Options considered	1. There are no alternative options which are practicable. It is the role of Herefordshire Council to consult locally and to make a decision based on the responses and local information, on whether the payphones can be removed, adopted or are retained. In accordance with section 49 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'), Herefordshire Council is required to make a decision "in response to a proposal by British Telecommunications plc for the removal of public call boxes pursuant to Part 2 of the Schedule to a Direction published by Ofcom on 14 March 2006." More detail is set out in Appendix 1, BT notification letter and list of phone

	boxes affected.
Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	12 May 2020

<p>Officer: .....</p> <p>Director of adults and communities (Stephen Vickers)</p>	<p>Date 5 May 2020</p>
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