

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Assistant Director Talk Community Programme

Title	BT consultation on phone box removal Autumn 2020
Decision maker	Assistant Director Talk Community Programme
Date of decision	8 December 2020
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve the retaining of 34 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
Decision	That: the council object to the removal of 34 and agree with the removal of 5 public call boxes in the county, due to relevant factors, as detailed in Appendix A.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50034974
Consultation	Phone box users and local residents through BT notices in phone boxes affected, plus relevant parish councils and ward members.
Options considered	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 A, 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)	14 December 2020

Officer:

Date 8 December 2020

Assistant Director Talk Community
Programme (Amy Pitt)