

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Acting director of adults and communities

Title	BT consultation on phone box removal Spring 2021
Decision maker	Acting director of adults and communities
Date of decision	6 July 2021
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve the retaining of 6 and adoption of 1 at risk public phone boxes, in response to a formal consultation by British Telecom (BT). As set out by The Office of Communications (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, due to local circumstances.
Decision	That: a) the council object to the removal of 6 and agree to the adoption of 1 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=50038066
Consultation	
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 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)	12 July 2021

Officer:	Date 6 July 2021
Acting director adults and communities (Paul Smith)	