

# Public Document Pack



**COTSWOLD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

8 June 2021

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## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING DECISION-MAKING MEETING**

A meeting of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Decision-Making Meeting will be held remotely on **Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 2.30 pm.**

Rob Weaver  
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Decision-Making Meeting  
(Councillors Jenny Forde)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

# AGENDA

I. **Consultation on the removal of two telephone boxes (Pages 3 - 10)**

To agree the Council's response to a British Telecommunications Ltd. consultation.  
Reporting Officer: Joseph Walker 01285 623 146

DATE OF DECISION: NO EARLIER THAN WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS: NOON ON TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2021

Note: Any Member who wishes to comment on an item is requested to send those comments (preferably by e-mail) to the Reporting Officer, copied to Democratic Services, by the deadline identified.

Any comments received will be reported to the Decision-Maker prior to the decision(s) being taken.

(END)

# Agenda Item 1

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|  <p><b>COTSWOLD</b><br/>DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> | <p><b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b></p>  |
| <p>Name and date of Committee</p>   | <p><b>CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b><br/><b>16 June 2021</b></p>  |
| <p>Report Number</p>  | <p><b>AGENDA ITEM I</b></p>  |
| <p>Subject</p>  | <p><b>CONSULTATION ON THE REMOVAL OF TWO TELEPHONE BOXES</b></p>   |
| <p>Wards affected</p>   | <p>Sandywell, Grumbolds Ash with Avening</p>   |
| <p>Accountable member</p>   | <p>Cllr Jenny Forde / Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing<br/>Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk">jenny.forde@cotswold.gov.uk</a></p>  |
| <p>Accountable officer</p>  | <p>Joseph Walker Community Partnerships Officer<br/>Tel: 01285 623146 Email: <a href="mailto:joseph.walker@publicagroup.uk">joseph.walker@publicagroup.uk</a></p>  |
| <p>Summary/Purpose</p>  | <p>To agree the Council's response to a British Telecommunications Ltd. consultation.</p>  |
| <p>Annexes</p>  | <p>Annex A BT CONSULTATION email 01/04/21<br/>Annex B Schedule of public call boxes</p>  |
| <p>Recommendation/s</p>   | <p><i>a) That the Cabinet Member agrees a response to British Telecommunications Ltd</i></p>   |
| <p>Corporate priorities</p>   | <p>Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing.</p>  |
| <p>Key Decision</p>   | <p>NO</p>  |
| <p>Exempt</p>   | <p>NO</p>  |
| <p>Consultees/<br/>Consultation</p>   | <p>British Telecommunications Ltd launched consultation on the removal of the affected boxes. The Council has directly notified the affected parishes that this consultation is underway and invited comment, and advised ward members</p> |

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** On the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, the Council received an email (Annex A) from British Telecommunications Ltd (BT), advising that they were launching a consultation on the removal of the telephony from two telephone boxes, these being the kiosks in Ozleworth (Ozleworth Parish Meeting) and Brockhampton (Sevenhampton Parish Council). Under the telephone regulator OFCOM's procedures, the Council must be consulted, and is expected to consider any local representations in determining its position. The Council has a veto on the removal of telephony from public call boxes ('boxes'), but must only consider the social utility of retaining telephony in exercising this veto

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1.** Under the process set out by the Ofcom, the regulatory body, it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to initiate its own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. They would normally expect these consultations to involve other public organisations such as Parish Councils and work within the terms of the Communications Act 2003. Accordingly, the host Parishes have been notified of BT's proposals.

- 2.2.** The Council has a veto on BT's individual proposals, but only where its position can be objectively justified. The two affected Parishes were invited to submit their views to the Council, initially by the end of April, extended to the end of May, to try to elicit a response. Neither Parish responded, However, a response from an individual resident in Ozleworth was received, as follows:

'Hello,

I'm writing as one of many people who would like to see the telephone box at Ozleworth remain in place. This and hundreds of others like it are now a treasured part of our heritage - valuable icons of the British landscape, both rural and urban. If we continue to remove them one by one then very soon there will be none left; a move we would all live to regret. I fully appreciate that it's original function is now redundant but local residents are keen for it to remain and would maintain it with great care and decide how best to put it to future use. Please do not allow such an act of vandalism to go ahead. Many thanks.'

- 2.3.** Clarification was sought from this respondent to determine whether the Parish or local people would be interested in adopting the kiosk, as the most common means of securing its future, but no response was received.

- 2.4.** While the Council is not privy to the full information BT have used to identify which boxes they are proposing for removal and which should be retained, some data behind this consultation has been provided. The Council has been informed of the volume of calls. BT is also obliged to consider social factors such as the type of housing, or whether the box is near an accident hotspot. These issues have been considered. The Officer judgement is that there are no relevant grounds to object to the removal of the boxes.

- 2.5.** As there are no grounds to object to the removal of the boxes, nor has a willing community adopter come forward, the decision to be made is whether the Council allows the removal of these boxes, or seeks to adopt them itself to preserve this part of our local heritage. The decision at this stage is a consultation response to inform BT. A decision to acquire the boxes would require a Cabinet decision in due course. No professional condition

survey has been undertaken at this point, although a desk based review using Google Maps indicates both boxes are in a poor state of repair. The box in Ozleworth is on a roadside location, at a distance from any dwellings, whereas the box in Brockhampton is more centrally located, on an triangle of land in the middle of a junction in the village.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1.** There are no financial implications for the Council from either the retention, removal or adoption of a box by a third party. Should the decision be taken that the Council should itself seek adopt a box, there would be some limited financial liability. However, the actual acquisition would require full consideration by Cabinet.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1.** The Council is fulfilling a role under guidance from Ofcom, so there are no legal implications arising directly from this Report.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1.** There is no risk to Council business.

### **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 6.1.** BT, as the principal actor in this matter, is expected to review social factors in putting forward its proposals for the removal of public call boxes.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)**

- 7.1.** None. While the consequence of this consultation will be that some local facilities are being removed, there is clear evidence these are not being used, so their removal will have a negligible impact.

### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1.** None

### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1.** None

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## Joseph Walker

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**From:** [bt.authorisation.team@bt.com](mailto:bt.authorisation.team@bt.com)  
**Sent:** 01 April 2021 12:20  
**To:** Leisure & Communities (CDC)  
**Cc:** Joseph Walker  
**Subject:** Cotswold District Payphone Consultation  
**Attachments:** Cotswold District Annex.xlsx; Street\_Payphone notice\_English.pdf

### **We'd like to remove payphones in your area so please tell us your views. Our 90 day consultation ends on 30 June 2021**

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

We're continually reviewing the demand for our payphones and we've identified 2 public payphones in your area that aren't being used enough. We're proposing to remove them under the 90 day consultation process. The list of payphones is attached.

To make sure that the local community are fully informed, we've placed consultation notices (including the posting date) on these payphones. I've attached a sample copy.

#### **Want to keep a phone box?**

With payphones being used less, communities are looking at new ways of using them. Thousands have been turned into cafes, mini libraries and defibrillator sites. For just £1, most red boxes can be adopted. Plus, modern glass boxes can be adopted if communities want to house a defibrillator. Visit [bt.com/adopt](http://bt.com/adopt) for more information.

#### **Why do we want to remove payphones?**

Overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing all the time, with at least 98 per cent of the UK now having mobile call coverage. This is important because as long as there is mobile network coverage, it's possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no coverage from your own mobile network provider.

Ofcom's [affordability report](#) found, several years ago, that most people no longer view payphones as essential for consumers in most circumstances.

#### **What we're asking you to do**

We'd really appreciate your help and feedback on whether the payphones are still needed.

Ofcom's [statement](#) gives local authorities the responsibility of consulting with local communities on removal of the payphone service. Ofcom normally expect these consultations to involve other public organisations such as parish or community councils and work within the terms of the Communications Act 2003.

#### **What to do next**

Please complete and return the attached annex with your decision on each payphone by email to [bt.authorisation.team@bt.com](mailto:bt.authorisation.team@bt.com). Please retain proof that the email was sent or apply a read receipt.

- Just select **agree** if you're happy for us to remove it.
- If the local community wish to **adopt**, please provide their contact details and we'll do the rest.
- If you decide to **object**, please complete the last column with your reasons. It's important that you objectively justify your decisions based on why the payphone service is still needed. Annex 1 in [Ofcom's full guidance about removing phone boxes](#) states that BT's Universal Service Obligation applies to the telephone, not the phone box. The guidance also details the appeals process we must follow for unreasonable objections. It would, for example, be inappropriate for a local authority to object to removal of a public call box on "heritage grounds" or because it is a local landmark.

We'll assume you have no objection to the removal of a payphone if information on the form is incomplete, not returned, or an adoption does not proceed. Please be aware that once removed, kiosks cannot not be re-instated.

If you've got any questions, please email us at [btp.authorisation.team@bt.com](mailto:btp.authorisation.team@bt.com).

Yours faithfully

*Rick Thompson*

Rick Thompson



This email contains information from BT that might be privileged or confidential. And it's only meant for the person above. If that's not you, we're sorry - we must have sent it to you by mistake. Please email us to let us know, and don't copy or forward it to anyone else. Thanks.

We monitor our email systems and may record all our emails.

British Telecommunications plc

R/O : 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ

Registered in England: No 1800000

Please return in this format to ensure that the telephone number of the kiosk is clearly shown

|   | Telephone Number | Address                          | Postcode | Average calls per month | Posting Completed Date | Agree Adopt Object | Reason for objection - based on need for telephony only not the kiosk |
|---|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | 01242820459      | PCO PCO1 BROCKHAMPTON CHELTENHAM | GL54 5XH | 0                       | 18/03/2021             |                    |   |
| 2 | 01453521394      | PCO1 OZLEWORTH WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE | GL12 7QA | 0                       | 18/03/2021             |                    |   |

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