



## Notification of Decision of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety

Present: Councillor Lisa Spivey

Officers: Joseph Walker, Community Partnership Officer, Caleb Harris- Senior Democratic Services Officer

### 1. Declarations of Interest

There were none from the Cabinet Member or the Officers present.

### 2. Response to British Telecommunications Ltd consultation on the removal of telephony from a telephone box in Stow-on-the-Wold

The purpose of the report was to determine the Council's response to a consultation led by British Telecommunications Ltd into the removal of telephony from a telephone kiosk in Stow-on-the-Wold.

The Cabinet Member opened the meeting by introducing the officers present and the recommendation from the officer which was to submit a consultation response to BT in-line with Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council's statement of objection to the adoption of a red telephone kiosk.

The Cabinet Member then invited the Community Partnership Officer to introduce the report.

It was outlined that The Battlefields Trust request to adopt the kiosk for use as a mini museum had triggered a consultation from British Telecommunications Ltd.

It was outlined that the Council is a statutory consultee as the Local Planning Authority and is expected to provide a response to adoption proposals as it has a power of veto.

It was noted that the telephone kiosk is located on the Fosseway at the junction with the A424.

It was outlined that the telephone kiosk in question had seen 50 telephone calls in the last 12 months.

It was outlined that under OFCOM arrangements, a consultation response is required to prevent or approve the adoption of the box.

It was noted that Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council had provided clear reasons for objecting to the adoption of the kiosk at paragraph 2.2. These were due to the usage statistics and the local circumstances.

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The Community Partnership Officer added that whilst outside of the formal consultation, Stow-on-the-Wold Town Council had indicated that it would consider supporting the adoption of other boxes in the area by The Battlesfield Trust or other organisations.

The Cabinet Member asked about the proposed use for the Battlefields Trust. It was explained by the officer that the trust had indicated that it would be used for a mini-museum for the Battle of Stow.

The Cabinet Member asked about the usage levels and if there is a target from BT which is used when considering the adoption of the kiosks. It was noted by the Community Partnership Officer that there is no formal metric for use of the telephone kiosk 50 calls is quite high for a rural area. However, there were other considerations such as the location of the kiosk on a main road.

The Cabinet Member noted that whilst the recommendation was to submit a consultation response to object to this adoption, The Battlefields Trust could consider adopting other kiosks in the area that may be suitable for the proposed mini museum.

#### **Decision**

**The Cabinet Member considered the recommendations of the officer and resolved to AGREE the officer's recommendation to submit the Council's consultation response to object to the proposed adoption of the kiosk.**

#### **Reason for Decision of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services**

The Cabinet Member agreed to the decision as the telephone kiosk had seen sufficient usage as a telephone to justify the consultation response that the telephony services should be retained.

#### **ACTIONS BY:**

**Joseph Walker**

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**30 November 2023**

**Closing Date for Call-In:**

**8 December 2023 (5.00pm)**

**Action Embargoed until:**

**11 December 2023**

Chair

(END)