

BT PAYPHONES - REMOVALS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on BT's latest proposals to remove payphones from operation in Rochford District.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 BT has written to the Council to seek views on their latest proposals for the removal of payphones in the District. The proposals are subject to a consultation period that runs from 2nd July to 12th August 2004.
- 2.2 BT has reviewed the use of payphones and concluded that a number of their existing kiosks (see Appendix One) should be retained to fulfil a 'social obligation' role.
- 2.3 However, the review has also concluded that 13 payphones (see Appendix Two) should be removed. The decline in the use of payphones relates to the fact that 99% of households now have a phone at home and 85% have a mobile phone.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Whilst the loss of any payphones is regrettable, it seems that this is inevitable, given the very substantial culture change in communication that is taking place.
- 3.2 On a more positive note, BT recognises the need to retain some loss making phones to fulfil their social obligations as a telecoms provider. That being the case, it is suggested that Members review the list of proposed removals (Appendix Two) and determine whether there may be any justification in retention of some of these kiosks to fulfil a social obligation role.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That subject to Members' views, BT be informed that Rochford District Council raises no objection to the removal of payphones as outlined in this report.

Shaun Scrutton

Head of Planning Services

Background Papers:

Letter dated 2nd July 2004 from BT Payphones, PPO6A21, Delta Point, 35 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2YZ.

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