

BRITISH TELECOM REVIEW OF THE NUMBER OF STREET TELEPHONE BOXES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises Members of a review being undertaken by British Telecom (BT) of the number of street telephones boxes within the District. It seeks Members' comments so that these can be conveyed to BT within the appropriate timeframe.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The District Council has been contacted by BT who advise that they are conducting a review of the number of street telephone boxes within the District. The review is necessary because of a drop in use of more than one third. Nonetheless, BT advises that it is pledged to keep kiosks in line with its licence conditions. BT also advises that the review does not include unprofitable payphones serving remote communities.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 BT is looking at 30,000 phone boxes across the country which no longer meet the needs of customers and having another payphone serving the local community. Whilst intending to ensure that a basic service is protected and within easy reach of all communities, BT's aim is to thin out payphones where there are too many boxes. It is anticipated around 12,000 will be removed nationally in the coming year through such a review. This figure represents less than 10% of the payphones operated by BT in the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 From the review carried out in the District, BT have identified 16 street payphones in Rayleigh and Hockley for removal. The list is attached as Appendix A. Under the revised OFTEL guidelines, BT have now notified this Authority of its intention to remove these boxes and this Authority has until 7th March, 2003, to respond with any comments.
- 3.3 As part of this process the District Council has contacted all parish and town councils to make them aware of BT's proposals and any comments received from those authorities will be given verbally on the night.

4 OFFICER COMMENT

- 4.1 All the phone boxes on the list have been inspected. All but one, o/s 141 Ferry Road, Hullbridge, are single boxes. Only one is a red-type phone box – the remainder are of the newer designs. The red type box is of a design that is unlikely to qualify for architectural listing. At the time of the inspection, 10 of the 16 were not in service. On the face of it therefore, unless a particular social case can be made, there seems little reason to object to the removal of any of those boxes listed.

5 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All Parish and Town Councils have been notified and asked for their views

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to offer no objection to the removal of the phone boxes listed, subject to Member comment and the consideration of any views from the Parish/Town Councils in the District. (CE)

Chief Executive

Paul Warren

Background Papers:

Letter from BT dated 25th January, 2003

For further information please contact Paul Warren on:-

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APPENDIX A

Tel. No.	Suite Reference	Address	Post Code	Unitary Authority
01702 201039	SOS088	Adj. To 38 Southview Road, Hockley	SS5 5DY	ROCHFORD
01702 230690	SOS094	O/s 141 Ferry Road, Hullbridge, Hockley	SS5 6ET	ROCHFORD
01268 784241	SOS096	O/s 16 Cheapside West, Rayleigh	SS6 9BY	ROCHFORD
01268 776744	SOS097	O/s 63 Cotswold Avenue, Rayleigh	SS6 8AN	ROCHFORD
01268 784114	SOS098	Downhall Road, Rayleigh	SS6 9PD	ROCHFORD
01268 776121	SOS099	O/s Post Office, High Street, Rayleigh	SS6 7BT	ROCHFORD
01268 784480	SOS099	Opp. Station Ave, Lansdowne Drive, Rayleigh	SS6 9AL	ROCHFORD
01268771335	SOS100	Adj. Trinity Road, Rayleigh	SS6 8QA	ROCHFORD
01268 776122	SOS105	O/s 187 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh	SS6 7LE	ROCHFORD
01268 776746	SOS105	DJ.Footpath Nr. 87/89 Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh	SS6 7QW	ROCHFORD
01702 549392	SOS106	Jnc. Ashcombe Road, Larkfield Close, Rochford	SS4 1SS	ROCHFORD
01702 549485	SOS107	Jnc. Ormonde /Ave..Percy Cottis Road, Rochford	SS4 1QN	ROCHFORD
01702 200194	SOS108	Jnc. Buckingham Road, Main Road, Hockley	SS5 4RG	ROCHFORD
01702 549393	SOS109	O/s 389 Ashingdon Road, Rochford	SS4 3DR	ROCHFORD
01702 201013	Sos110	Jnc. Whitehart Road and Main Road, Hawkevell, Hockley	SS5 4EG	ROCHFORD
01702 220017	SOS110	At Hockley Station Car Park, Station Approach, Hockley	SS5 4BG	ROCHFORD