

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Proposed removal of Public Call Box from Blue Anchor, Minehead – Final Decision to Object

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Chris Booth, Community PFH

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Date of Decision: 05/02/21

Details of decision: British Telecommunications plc (BT) has recently contacted the Council concerning proposals to remove a public call box in Blue Anchor, Minehead, within the Somerset West and Taunton area.

With the spread of mobile telephone communications the need for public telephone boxes has significantly declined over the past few years and is likely to continue leading to the current proposals. The telephone boxes the subject of this proposal have been monitored for 12 months by BT and very low usage (in many cases no use at all) has been recorded.

Consultations with the appropriate Ward Councillors and Parish Councils have taken place within the last couple of months and the responses received confirming no objection to the removal, raising objection to the removal, or seeking to adopt the telephone box once the telephone equipment has been removed, have been added into the attached Schedule.

This Schedule formed a 'draft' decision which had to be notified to both BT and the Secretary of State which was done on the 4th January 2021.

A further round of consultation has been undertaken before the end of January 2021 before this 'final' decision in respect of the telephone boxes identified is being issued by the Council as the 'Relevant Public Body'.

At this final stage, Executive Councillor Chris Booth has agreed that the final decision should be published and sent to BT and the Secretary of State.

Reasons for proposed decision: BT has been assessing usage of public telephone boxes in the Somerset West and Taunton Area and has found that this box has not been used at all during the last year or on such an infrequent basis that it is simply not worthwhile keeping the boxes listed operational.

Alternative funding options sourced: None

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	See attached list	
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	None	
Legal implications	None	
Links to corporate aims	None	
Community Safety implications	Where local communities have expressed concerns about the loss of call boxes within an area –say with poor mobile reception – the Council has supported the request to lodge an objection against the removal of the call box.	
Environmental implications	Aesthetically some boxes are likely to be adopted to maintain the current street scene.	
Equalities Impact	None	
Safeguarding Implications	None	
Risk management	None	
Partnership implications	None	

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.

Not Applicable

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Booth', written in a cursive style.

Name: Cllr Chris Booth, Executive PFH for Community

Date: 05/02/21

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

Note: *A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk*