
REPORT TO:	Finance and Management Committee	AGENDA ITEM:	9
DATE OF MEETING:	22 nd July 2004	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Deputy Chief Executive	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	John Birkett (5742)	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	BT Public Payphone Review	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Hartshorne/Ticknall, Midway, Repton, Woodville, Etwall	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	FM14

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 Whether the Committee would wish to comment on the proposals.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To invite comments on a formal consultation received from BT Payphones regarding a review on the provision of public payphones throughout Great Britain.

3.0 Detail

3.1 BT Payphones has been conducting a comprehensive review of the provision of public payphones throughout Great Britain since April 2002. This programme is planned to run until April 2005.

3.2 The consultation letter states that, "In Great Britain, of the 72,000 BT phone boxes on the street, only 30,000 are profitable and cover their running costs, the remaining 42,000 are unprofitable. Despite these commercial pressures, BT is very conscious of its social obligations and has pledged its commitment to providing payphone service throughout the UK, particularly for those people that are dependent on payphones for telephone service. Getting the balance between commercial pressures and providing a payphone service is vital, as competition law prevents BT subsidising Payphones from other parts of its business. BT has kept its payphone business viable by careful management and focused cost reduction. We recognise that there may be concerns about our plans, but through consultation with a range of local representatives, we aim to manage the changes sensitively and professionally.

3.3 BT have stated that the increase of mobile phone usage has had a significant impact on the use of payphones and the number of calls made from BT Payphones has almost halved in last three years and revenue has dropped by 41%. It states that 99% of UK homes have a phone at home and 85% have a mobile phone.

- 3.6 The company's recent survey has revealed that there are a total of 78 street payphones in the South Derbyshire district. It states that as part of our commitment to the continued provision of payphone service throughout the UK it has identified 21 loss making payphones in South Derbyshire that it guarantees not to remove as part of any proposed rationalisation activity. The decline in the use of payphones does mean overall level of provision in South Derbyshire exceeds customer need and as a result it plans to remove 6 payphones in South Derbyshire. This figure includes 1 that has an alternative payphone within 100 metres and therefore outside of its consultation obligations. The survey for the district of South Derbyshire has recently been completed with the following payphones have been identified for removal.

Ward	Address
Woodville	0/s Telephone Exchange, Pco1, Swadlincote Rd, Woodville, Swadlincote DE11 8DA
Midway	Kiosk 550210, Sandcliffe Rd, Midway, Swadlincote DE11 7PH
Repton	Kiosk 702220 Jnt Of High St, Brook End, Repton, Derby DE656FW
Repton	Kiosk 703533 Foremark Village, Chestnut Ave, Milton, Derby DE65 6EJ
Etwall	Kiosk 732020 Level Crossing, Egginton, Derby DE65 6GW
Hartshorne & Ticknall	Near Mother Hubbard PH (A511) Burton Road, Ashby De La Zouch LE65 2TE

4.0 Financial Implications

None

5.0 Corporate Implications

None

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Notices are displayed in the relevant kiosks inviting the local community to express their views. Members of the public are being asked to comment to their Local Authority Planning Department and/or Parish Council in the first instance.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 BT Payphones states that it will base its decision on responses received. If no comments are forthcoming about the proposed removal of the payphones, the company will assume there are no objections.

8.0 Background Papers

Consultation letter from BT (1 July 2004).