

Information Item

Subject:	British Telecom Proposed Payphones Removal Consultation
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The council has received notification from BT regarding consultation on its current programme of proposed public payphone removals. The relevant Area Boards should be aware of the affected payphones in their local community, by referring to the detailed enclosed sheet.

There are currently 71 public payphones with low usage levels and BT propose to remove them following a full consultation. BT has also placed consultation notices in the relevant payphone kiosks.

As the local authority, we are required to carry out our own consultation process to canvas the views of the local community. Briefing Note Number 19-033 has been circulated to Wiltshire Councillors and Town and Parish Councils.

Consultation has been initiated to receive reasons for any objections to the removal of specific phones, as a blanket objection is unlikely to carry weight.

BT has provided some examples of factors that may be relevant, full guidance on the removal process on its website (at: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>)

BT offers the opportunity for parish councils and registered charities to *adopt a kiosk for just £1, thereby protecting the heritage of the community.

Details about this can also be found on BT's website (at <http://business.bt.com/phone-services/payphone-services/adopt-a-kiosk/>)

The consultation period closes on **28 January 2020**, and responses by end of business **14 January 2020** will enable us to include representations in forming our return to BT. All responses will be collated and directed to a single point of contact at Wiltshire Council: mary.moore@wiltshire.gov.uk
Mary Moore, Economic Development and Planning, who will co-ordinate the response on behalf of the council

*Defibrillators are one possible example of how payphone adoption can be put to a modern and potentially life-saving use, alongside libraries, art projects and information centres to suit individual and local community needs.