

THE EXECUTIVE

11 MARCH 2003

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH FOR DEMOCRATIC SUPPORT
AND LEGAL SERVICES**

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAY PHONE SERVICES | FOR DECISION

This report is submitted to the Executive at the request of the Chief Executive.

Summary

British Telecom has written to the Council explaining that they are reviewing the number of street phone boxes because of the drop in use of more than one third. They are obliged to keep kiosks in line with their licence conditions and are committed to maintaining existing services to all communities, particularly those pay phones that serve remote communities.

They are looking at 30,000 phone boxes across the Country that no longer meet the needs of customers or have another pay phone serving the same locality. BT anticipate that around 12,000 phone boxes will be removed nationwide in the coming year, which represents less than 10% of the pay-phones operating in the UK.

Following the review, work to remove phone boxes in Barking and Dagenham and Romford areas will begin shortly. The intention is that under the current phase of the review to remove 24 street pay phones located in the Borough, specifically Dagenham. Some sites involve the removal of only one box from a group location, meaning that at least one public pay-phone service will remain on site.

BT has written to the Council, who has, within a period of 42 days (expires 14 March 2003), to confirm that interested parties have been advised and that any comments have been passed on for their consideration.

A decision was taken to consult those local residents attending Community Forums, local Ward Councillors and the Portfolio holder seeking any specific views they may have on the proposals of BT,

Set out as Appendix A is a list of phone box sites proposed to be removed. Please note that those marked with an asterix indicate single sites where no pay box will remain. Appendix B is a summary of the public's responses received to date.

The Director of Leisure and Environmental Services has also been consulted, but has no comments on the basis that that Department's interest only lies with the installation of phone boxes and in that respect the effects on sightlines and other highway considerations.

Recommendation/ Reason

Members are asked to consider the responses to the consultation on the removal of the phone boxes and, together with any other comments, to agree that it forms a collective

response, so that BT can take account of local views.

Contact Officer:

John Dawe

Democratic and Electoral
Services Manager

Telephone: 020 8227 2135

Fax: 020 8227 2171

Minicom: 0208 227 2685

E-mail: john.dawe@lbbd.gov.uk

