
REPORT TO:	SPECIAL FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	20th OCTOBER 2005	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PETER WOOLRICH (EXT. 5726)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	PROPOSED BT PAYPHONE CHANGES - CONSULTATION	REF: S/policy/committees/policy/f&m
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	NEWHALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM14

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that:

- Member's review their objections to BT's proposal to remove the payphone at the junction of Burton Road/Wood Lane, Newhall.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To respond to British Telecom's (BT's) request for the Council to reconsider its original objection to the removal of a payphone at the junction of Burton Road/Wood Lane, Newhall.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 During the summer BT consulted the Council on proposals to remove two payphones and convert others to cashless payment. The latter proposal remains subject to an Ofcom (The Office of Communications) review which is expected to be completed in November. The matter was reported to a meeting of Council on 11th August when Members resolved to object to any change in the existing provision. (Minute CL/68 refers) A copy of the report to Council is attached as Annexe A.
- 3.2 A formal objection was subsequently lodged with BT. In response to increased usage, BT has since cancelled the proposal to remove the payphone at Lincoln Way, Midway. However, BT remains keen to remove the box at Burton Road/Wood Lane arguing that it receives very little usage indeed. BT has indicated that usage would have to increase fivefold just to cover its direct costs without taking into account overheads. In response to

the Member's general concerns about availability of such phones particularly to pensioners and for emergencies, BT have indicated that the people most likely to be affected are aged between 15-24 (33% of calls from public payphones are made from people of this age group). The smallest user group is the over 65 group, accounting for some 6%.

- 3.3 Having looked at the situation very carefully, BT believe that the box on Burton Road/Wood Lane could be removed with little impact on the community and asks the Council to reconsider its position in respect of this particular proposal.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no resource implications for the Council arising from the BT review.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 BT is requesting that the Council re-consider its objections to the removal of a payphone at the junction of Burton Road/Wood Lane, Newhall. Members view's are requested.