

<b>Title of Report:</b>	BT Removal of Payphones - Update
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	PLANNING COMMITTEE
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23rd October 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Information
<b>To be discussed In Committee</b>	NO

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	<b>Cohesive Leadership</b>
Outcome	Our elected members work collaboratively and make decisions on an evidence led basis and in line with its policies.
Lead Officer	Principal Planning Officer

<b>Estimated Timescale for Completion</b>	
Date to be Completed	<b>n/a in this case</b>

<b>Budgetary Considerations Not applicable in this case</b>	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals. <b>Not applicable in this case.</b>		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Members on the removal of BT payphones in the Borough.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that BT wrote to the Council back in February 2024 setting out 18.no public payphone services in the Borough identified for removal. Planning officials have been in discussion with BT since then, at the request of Members, regarding the adoption of kiosks by community groups.
- 2.2 Officials, at the request of Members, also contacted BT to advise of Member concern relating to the loss of kiosks, particularly the traditional red kiosks. BT has responded, advising that they use Ofcom criteria to establish which services are no longer required. BT also reiterated that kiosks may be adopted under the 'adopt a kiosk' scheme, details of which may be found at: <https://business.bt.com/public-sector/street-hubs/adopt-a-kiosk-scheme/>
- 2.3 As Members are aware, two of the 18.no kiosks to be removed are traditional red kiosks. Officials previously wrote out to community groups in the vicinity of the two kiosks advising them to contact BT directly if they were interested in adopting the kiosks. BT has advised officials that the red kiosk at Armoy has since been adopted.
- 2.4 BT has also agreed to an extension of time (until 31st October 2024) for interested parties to contact them should they wish to adopt kiosk No.9 at Main Street, Glenariff. Officials have again written out to the Glenariff Community Groups previously contacted, advising of this extension of time, and advising them to contact BT directly should they wish to explore the adoption of the kiosk.
- 2.5 Officials also highlighted, to BT, Member concerns regarding the maintenance and upkeep of existing kiosks, generally in the Borough. In response BT has advised that any concerns regarding kiosk maintenance should be directed to them on 0800 661 610 or by e-mail to: [customer.serv.payphones@bt.com](mailto:customer.serv.payphones@bt.com)

## **3.0 Going forward**

- 3.1 Following a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 with Alderman Sharon McKillop and the Development Plan Manager, to discuss how the Council might support community groups to adopt the kiosks, the officer has scheduled a meeting with the Council's Community Development Manager and Funding Unit Manager to discuss possible assistance to those community groups wishing to adopt a kiosk.

3.2 Planning officials have also contacted the Council's Land and Property Section to establish if there are any BT kiosks located on council-owned land.

#### 4.0 **Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that the Planning Committee note the contents of this update report.