

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2008

Present: Councillors J Kane (Chairman); D Moore; Mrs C Watson; R Pitt; R Salkeld and A Jacob.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; M Jepson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; J Hall, Communications Officer and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer;

Also present: Miss K Kinsella

EDE 04/08 British Telecom Payphone Closures

The Committee were provided with an overview of the planned BT Payphone closure programme and a list of 25 public payphones identified for closure in the Copeland area.

During discussion of this item Members raised concerns regarding the removal of a vital link from some of the most remote sites in the Borough where mobile phone coverage is either poor or non existent. Some of the sites also being close to accident 'black spots'.

It was stated that not everyone has access to a mobile phone or home phone and asked for the distances from the closing box to the nearest alternative.

Members of the Committee questioned if the phone boxes listed for closure were serviceable.

Members also questioned the volume of call figures provided by BT and sought clarification on whether the numbers included Emergency (999 or 112) Calls, Reverse Charge calls and calls to Freephone numbers. If the figures did not include these types of call, Members requested that these numbers be supplied by BT.

AGREED – that

- a) The process for responding to the proposal by British Telecom (BT) to close 25 public payphones in Copeland should be as set out in the report.
- b) The first draft notification as set out in Appendix A of the Agenda be approved for publication.
- c) A survey of the pay phones proposed for closure be undertaken.

- d) Parish and Town Councils be advised of the proposed payphone closures and their assistance requested in compiling full details on each site.

The Meeting Closed at 2:50pm

Chairman:.....

Date:.....