

PART B – Equality Analysis Form

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

This form:

- Can be used to prompt discussions, ensure that due regard has been given and remove or minimise disadvantage for an individual or group with a protected characteristic
- Involves looking at what steps can be taken to advance and maximise equality as well as eliminate discrimination and negative consequences
- Should be completed before decisions are made, this will remove the need for remedial actions.

Note – An Initial Equality Screening Assessment (Part A) should be completed prior to this form.

When completing this form consider the Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc. – see page 11 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

1. Title	
Equality Analysis title: Proposal by BT to permanently remove 33 public phone boxes throughout the borough	
Date of Equality Analysis (EA): 25 November 2019	
Directorate: Regeneration & Environment Services	Service area: Planning Policy Team Planning, Regeneration and Transport
Lead Manager: Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer	Contact number: 54746
Is this a: <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy / Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service / Function <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
If other, please specify	

2. Names of those involved in the Equality Analysis (Should include minimum of three people) - see page 7 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Name	Organisation	Role (eg service user, managers, service specialist)
Andy Duncan	RMBC	Planning Policy Manager
Rachel Overfield	RMBC	Planning Officer
Ryan Shepherd	RMBC	Senior Planning Officer

3. What is already known? - see page 10 of Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance

Aim/Scope (who the Policy/Service affects and intended outcomes if known)

This may include a group/s identified by a protected characteristic, others groups or stakeholder/s e.g. service users, employees, partners, members, suppliers etc.)

The proposal may affect groups identified by protected characteristics (along with the rest of the population).

Procedures set out by Ofcom, under the Communications Act 2003, require the Council to organise consultation with local communities about the proposed call box removal. Ofcom guidance on the removal of public phone boxes outlines a number of factors local planning authorities are advised to consider when making a decision over the proposed removal of public telephone boxes. The Relevant Public Body must be satisfied that it acted in accordance with the six community requirements set out in section 4 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Act'). The consultation procedure then requires the Council to consult on this draft decision for one month and subsequently come to a final decision. BT cannot proceed to remove any call box that is the subject of objections supported by the Council in the Final Notification - known as the "local veto". Full information on procedure and legislative requirements is given in Ofcom guidance on procedures for the removal of public call boxes:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/uso/statement/removals.pdf>

What equality information is available? (Include any engagement undertaken)

Information on the protected characteristics of planning applicants or consultees (either in relation to planning applications or to the preparation of planning documents) is not collected by the Council.

The proposals affect the following wards in the borough:

Anston And Woodsetts Ward
 Boston Castle Ward
 Brinsworth And Catcliffe Ward
 Dinnington Ward
 Hellaby Ward
 Holderness Ward
 Hoover Ward
 Keppel Ward,

Maltby Ward
 Rawmarsh Ward
 Rother Vale Ward
 Silverwood Ward
 Sitwell Ward
 Swinton Ward
 Wales Ward
 Wath Ward
 Wickersley Ward
 Wingfield Ward

There may be residents who have limited access to mobile phones and land line connections, particularly those on low incomes and elderly people.

The Council has considered whether to support or object to the proposed public phone box closures based on internally derived criteria that have relevance to inclusion principles including:

- Whether phone boxes are recorded as having had 52 or more calls in 12 months (this is equivalent to one call per week which is considered to be a reasonable level of usage).
- Whether phone boxes are in areas with a high level of population over 75 years of age, is in an area of below national average home ownership and has fewer than 50 properties within 400 metres

Consultation and engagement

Two periods of public consultation have occurred through the Council website. The proposal for phone box closure has been advertised in the local paper and on a notice in the phone box. An email notification was sent out to relevant ward members, the emergency services, neighbourhood team and others.

Are there any gaps in the information that you are aware of?

No

What monitoring arrangements have you made to monitor the impact of the policy or service on communities/groups according to their protected characteristics?

The phone boxes are owned and operated by BT not the Council.

Engagement undertaken with customers. (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)

Consultations

- 4 – 24 October 2019
- November – 1 December 2019

During the first consultation the Council received 150 comments, the majority of which were focused on two

	<p>payphones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near the Yellow Lion Hotel, Aston: 72 objections received to the proposed closure and removal. A range of comments were received. The Parish Council noted that there is no telephone equipment in the box and also identified a wish to adopt the kiosk for local heritage and use purposes. Notwithstanding the current lack of equipment, a number of comments highlighted the role of the payphone for making emergency calls. As such it is proposed to object to the closure and removal of the payphone. BT would be required to maintain the kiosk for public call use. • Opposite No 36 Occupation Road, Harley: 69 comments received objecting to the proposed closure and removal. However none of the comments received supported the retention of payphone equipment and all referred to use of the payphone to house a defibrillator. Should the Council object to the closure BT would be required to maintain the kiosk for public call use, and it would not be available for alternative uses. Therefore it is proposed to agree to the closure. This will allow the community within Harley the opportunity to adopt the kiosk and adapt it to meet local aspirations. <p>The draft decision will be subject to further public consultation from 1 November to 1 December before a final decision is made.</p>
Engagement undertaken with staff (date and group(s) consulted and key findings)	Email notification for the proposal for phone box closure was sent to Development Management, Streetpride, and Housing Services on 4 October 2019 and Neighbourhoods Team on 17 October 2019.

4. The Analysis - of the actual or likely effect of the Policy or Service (Identify by protected characteristics)

How does the Policy/Service meet the needs of different communities and groups? (Protected characteristics of Age, Disability, Sex, Gender Reassignment, Race, Religion or Belief, Sexual Orientation, Civil Partnerships and Marriage, Pregnancy and Maternity) - see glossary on page 14 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance)

Rotherham's communities will benefit from having a consultation on BT proposals for phone box closure. They will have opportunity to support or object to BT proposals for phone box closure.

Does your Policy/Service present any problems or barriers to communities or Groups?

There may be residents who have limited access to mobile phones and land line connections, particularly those on low incomes and elderly people.

The Council has considered whether to support or object to the proposed public phone box closures based on internally derived criteria that have relevance to inclusion principles including:

- Whether phone boxes are recorded as having had 52 or more calls in 12 months (this is equivalent to one call per week which is considered to be a reasonable level of usage).
- Whether phone boxes are in areas with a high level of population over 75 years of age, is in an area of below national average home ownership and has fewer than 50 properties within 400 metres

Does the Service/Policy provide any positive impact/s including improvements or remove barriers?

Rotherham's communities will benefit from having consultations on BT proposals for phone box closure. They will have opportunity to support or object to BT proposals for phone box closure.

In some instances phone boxes may attract antisocial behaviour and their removal may be considered to benefit the community.

What affect will the Policy/Service have on community relations? (may also need to consider activity which may be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another)

The proposal for phone box closure is from BT, the Council is organising the consultations on behalf of the community.

Please list any **actions and targets** that need to be taken as a consequence of this assessment on the action plan below and ensure that they are added into your service plan for monitoring purposes – see page 12 of the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance.

5. Summary of findings and Equality Analysis Action Plan

If the analysis is done at the right time, i.e. early before decisions are made, changes should be built in before the policy or change is signed off. This will remove the need for remedial actions. Where this is achieved, the only action required will be to monitor the impact of the policy/service/change on communities or groups according to their protected characteristic - See page 11 of the Equality Screening and Analysis guidance

Title of analysis: Proposal by BT to permanently remove 33 public phone boxes throughout the borough
Directorate and service area: Planning Policy Team, Planning, Regeneration and Transport, Regeneration & Environment Services
Lead Manager: Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer
Summary of findings:
<p>Rotherham's communities will benefit from having consultations on BT proposals for phone box closure. They will have opportunity to support or object to BT proposals for phone box closure.</p> <p>There may be residents who have limited access to mobile phones and land line connections, particularly those on low incomes and elderly people.</p> <p>The Council has considered whether to support or object to the proposed public phone box closures based on internally derived criteria that have relevance to inclusion principles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether phone boxes are recorded as having had 52 or more calls in 12 months (this is equivalent to one call per week which is considered to be a reasonable level of usage).• Whether phone boxes are in areas with a high level of population over 75 years of age, is in an area of below national average home ownership and has fewer than 50 properties within 400 metres. <p>In some instances phone boxes may attract antisocial behaviour and their removal may be considered to benefit the community.</p>

The consultation process listens to the communities view on the consultation process. A variety of methods have been used to advertise the consultation.

The proposal for phone box closure is from BT, the Council is organising the consultations on behalf of the community.

Action/Target	State Protected Characteristics as listed below	Target date (MM/YY)
<p>The Council has considered whether to support or object to the proposed public phone box closures based on internally derived criteria that have relevance to inclusion principles including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether phone boxes are recorded as having had 52 or more calls in 12 months (this is equivalent to one call per week which is considered to be a reasonable level of usage). Whether phone boxes are in areas with a high level of population over 75 years of age, is in an area of below national average home ownership and has fewer than 50 properties within 400 metres 	All (particularly A (age))	11 December 2019

***A = Age, D= Disability, S = Sex, GR Gender Reassignment, RE= Race/ Ethnicity, RoB= Religion or Belief, SO= Sexual Orientation, PM= Pregnancy/Maternity, CPM = Civil Partnership or Marriage. C= Carers, O= other groups**

6. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state those that have approved the Equality Analysis. Approval should be obtained by the Director and approval sought from DLT and the relevant Cabinet Member.

Name	Job title	Date
Paul Woodcock	Strategic Director – Regeneration & Environment	
Councillor Lelliott	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	

7. Publishing

The Equality Analysis will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this Equality Analysis relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date Equality Analysis completed	25/11/19
Report title and date	<p>Proposal by BT to permanently remove 33 public phone boxes throughout the borough (Delegated Officer Decision 29-30 October 2019)</p> <p>Proposal by BT to permanently remove 33 public phone boxes throughout the borough (Delegated Officer Decision 6-9 December)</p> <p>Note of decisions regarding proposal by BT to permanently remove 33 phone boxes around the borough (Report for Cabinet 20 January 2020)</p>
Date report sent for publication	Cabinet – 20/01/20
Date Equality Analysis sent to Performance,	25 November 2019

Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	
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