

CASHPOINTS – ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

A number of people have asked whether or not the new RWB Banking Hub will have an ATM (Cashpoint).

I have spoken with Chris Ashton, Head of Banking at LINK, who look after the ATM Network.

LINK is regulated by the Payment Systems Regulator (PSR <https://www.psr.org.uk/>) on 'cash machine provision' and is responsible to ensure free access for cash is for every High Street.

The new RWB Banking Hub was recommended by LINK as a way of providing free access for cash to the local area.

LINK can recommend a cash machine if there isn't a free to use machine within 1 KM of a town centre.

In Royal Wootton Bassett's case there are free to use ATMs at Sainsburys, Brewery Place Stores and Eurogarages.

Whilst local people may argue that the other machines are not suitable alternatives should there be an issue with the main town centre (Sainsbury's) machine, under current legislation the addition of extra free to use ATMs in the town centre would not be permitted.

The Financial Conduct Authority is currently consulting on Access for Cash following new powers they have been given under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023.

The consultation ends in February, with new rules coming into effect in Q3 this year. Once these are known, LINK will use them to continue to review communities access for cash needs.

Cllr Allison Bucknell

3/1/2024