

Democratic Services
Salisbury District Council
PO Box 2117
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DF

direct line: 01722 434250
email: ptrenell@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

Report

To : Northern Area Committee
From : Paul Trenell
Date : 17/01/2008
Subject/ : Post Office Closures

1. Background

This report serves as an update on the committee's response to the public consultation on proposed Post Office closures.

2. Status

Since the last meeting a letter has been sent to each affected SubPostmaster asking for their views on the proposals and any relevant information (attached as appendix 1 for information). At time of writing (8th January 2008) no responses from within the Northern Area had been received. Responses from SubPostmasters in other areas of the district had been received and were proving very useful.

The Northern Area Post Office Task Group met on 7th January to share information. Some councillors had made personal contact with affected SubPostmasters and fed back useful information which would shape the final response. Further steps will be taken to gauge the views of all affected SubPostmasters before responses are finalised.

Responses are now being drafted on behalf of the committee and will be submitted by the deadline of 31st January. Any further input from members would be welcomed. When responses are complete they will be circulated to all members of the committee by the Democratic Services Officer.

3. Recommendation(s): That:

- (1) the committee note this report.

4. Background Papers:

Post Office Ltd, *Network Change Programme – Area Plan Proposal for West Berkshire and Wiltshire* (December 2007)

Wiltshire County Council, *Post Office Closures – Briefing Note* (December 2007)

Department of Trade and Industry, *The Post Office Network – Government Response to Public Consultation* (May 2007)

5. Implications:

Financial : None

Legal: The council has adequate powers to pursue this issue.

Human Rights: The council is making no decision that would impact directly on any persons Human Rights.

Council's Core Values: Supports all.

Democratic Services
Salisbury PO Box 2117
District Council
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 2DS

direct line: 01722 434250
email: ptrenell@salisbury.gov.uk
web: www.salisbury.gov.uk

EXAMPLE COPY

The SubPostmaster

Date: 21st December 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

Regarding: Post Office Closures

I am coordinating a response to the public consultation on proposed Post Office closures on behalf of Salisbury District Council's Northern Area Committee. As the subpostmaster of the branch in question it is important that we take your views into account. I am therefore writing to ask your feelings about the proposed closure and to obtain any further details that you might have about the potential impact of the closure so that we may consider these factors in compiling our response.

Questions of interest include:

- Are you personally opposed to the proposed closure of your branch? (If not please give brief details)
- Are you happy that the information contained in the 'Branch Access Report' for your branch is correct?
- Do you favour any one of the four possible 'outreach' options (mobile, partner, hosted or home?)
- Would the proposed closure have an impact on nearby or affiliated businesses (e.g. loss of trade for a newsagent which hosts your branch)?
- Are there any issues specific to your branch which need to be considered?

Beyond this, I would be pleased to receive any relevant information that could contribute to an informed consultation response.

I would ask that you try to have your reply along with any useful information to me by 7th January 2008 in order to give us time to properly prepare our response. I appreciate that this is a tight deadline, especially with the festive period, but given the circumstances I hope you will understand.

If you wish to speak to me on this matter please feel free to provide contact details or give me a ring on 01722 434250.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Trenell
Democratic Services