



**Leicester**  
City Council

**CABINET**

**26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004**

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**POST OFFICE BRANCH CLOSURE PROGRAMME FOR LEICESTER**

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**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report sets out the details on the proposed Post Office branch closure programme for Leicester that was announced two weeks ago and seeks the views of the Cabinet prior to its meeting with the Head of Post Office Limited for the area at 6.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to take this report as a matter of urgency for the following reasons: -
1. the public consultation by the Post Office started on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2004 and is due to end on 24<sup>th</sup> May
  2. the Head of Post Office Limited for the area is due to meet with Cabinet Members after their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April
  3. Consideration would need to be given to any further action Members decided they wished to take

**2. Report**

- 2.1 On the 8<sup>th</sup> April Post Office Ltd. announced its planned closure programme for Leicester and its public consultation process that will end on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004. These proposals are part of the company's Reinvention Programme that which they are undertaking in order to stabilise provision of service to their customers. Chief Executive received detailed notification on the planned closures on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- 2.2 The papers detailing the proposals for the three constituencies in the city are available from the Chief Executive Office. These follow, what is seen as, a comprehensive review of the network of Post Office branches in the area of Leicester by Post Office Limited. The proposals outline the closure of 15 branches in the city and the development of two new branches. One of the principles upon which the closures have been agreed is that access to

alternative branches is good and each of the proposed closing branches has a least one alternative branch within 1 mile.

2.3 At the request of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council the head of Post Office Limited for the area Mr Paul Maisey will be attending a meeting with Members of the Cabinet at 6.30pm on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004.

2.4 Full Council in July 2003 unanimously agreed that the Government should rethink its proposals for the closure of Post Offices in Leicester. Post Offices are a key resource within communities and can be an element of 'glue' that holds them together with their closure having the biggest impact upon those facing social exclusion and isolation, e.g. disabled people, older people, carers and one-parent families.

### 3. Recommendation(s)

3.1 Cabinet is recommended to provide its views on the proposed Post Office branch closure programme by Post Office Limited

### 4. Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial issues.

### 5. Legal implications

There are no immediate legal issues.

### 6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Reference within this report
Equal Opportunities Policy	YES	2.4
Sustainable Environment	NO	
Crime and Disorder	YES	2.4
Human Rights Act	NO	
Elderly/People on Low Income	YES	2.4

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