

**Re : Petition – Temporary closure**  
**Thurnby Lodge Housing Office**

**04.01.2011 – Chrissie Field – Area Manager**  
**Rowlatts Hill & Humberstone Area Housing Offices**

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- Due to reducing budgets, officers were requested to relinquish all agency staff by 4.10.2010.
- The LCC recruitment freeze meant that no replacements could be secured to offer cover for frontline services suffering from the above.
- A decision to close the least busy city Housing Office for part of the week on a temporary basis had to be taken until new frontline budgets could be confirmed.
- The least busy Housing Office was confirmed at the time as Thurnby Lodge Housing Office.
- Appropriate measures to agree closure of this office on it's least busy days (Tues, Weds & Thurs each week) was discussed at Senior Officer level.
- Local Ward Councillors were informed of the situation at the earliest opportunity by the Area Manager, Chrissie Field, and asked for their comments.
- Before appropriate publicity had been agreed, a public demonstration occurred.

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- A petition against the closure of the above office containing over 700 signatures was presented at Full Council on 25.11.2010 by Cllr Caroline Scuplak.
- The Lead Officer dealing with this petition, Chrissie Field, received a copy of the petition and petitioners signatures on 30.11.2010 and has since worked on a full resolution.
- All petitioners who could be identified (approx 550) were written to by the Lead Officer between 08.12.2010 and 15.12.2010 outlining the above. To date there has been no response back to the Lead Officer.

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- At the present time, budget constraints do not allow for any alternative arrangement with regard to the temporary closure of Thurnby Lodge Housing Office. The long-term situation will be resolved as part of the Council's normal budget setting process in January and February 2011.

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