

MOTION ON POST OFFICE CLOSURES FOR FULL COUNCIL

This Council notes with grave concern the proposals to close eight post offices in Copeland Borough which forms part of a plan to close 2,500 post offices across the country.

This Full Council meeting endorses the view already expressed by the Leader that

- this move seems premature, especially as we are trying to encourage people to make payments at Post Offices, which we hope would increase footfall and therefore use of other Post Office services
- this move would leave eight communities in the Borough without a vital provision.
- This area has poor public transport links, and there are real concerns about how people in these communities will be able to access their Post Office services

This council is further concerned that

- The closure of Holborn Hill and Tangier Street offices would be unhelpful to urban regeneration in Millom and Whitehaven
- The closure of Lowca, Parton, Bigrigg, Moor Row, and Beckermest, and the rejection of the proposal to re-open Gosforth Post Office, will be deeply damaging to these rural communities
- Neither “rural-proofing” nor “West Cumbria-proofing” seem to have been applied
- The criteria for closure seem arbitrary and unclear

This council endorses the view expressed during the recent parliamentary debate by the Chair of the All-Party post offices group, Kate Hoey MP, that halting the closure programme would be “common sense” and resolves to write to Post Offices Limited calling for the closure programme to be suspended while other options to keep more branches open are investigated.

This council resolves to object to all the proposed closures within Copeland

This council resolves to work with Parish Councils, the County Council, and elected representatives at all levels to campaign to save as many of our post offices as possible.

Proposed by Chris Whiteside
Seconded by Yvonne Clarkson