



## **To all Members of the Cabinet**

A meeting of the **Post Office Closure Programme Sub-Committee** will be held in **Garden Room, Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes** on **24 January 2008** at **12:30** which you are requested to attend.

The venue for this meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.

21 January 2008

Alan Batty  
Head of Democratic Services

### **Agenda**

- 1 Minutes**  
To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2007 (copy previously circulated).
- 2 Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Substitute Member of the Cabinet in the Event that the Chair of the Cabinet is Unable to Attend (Cabinet Minute No 131.1 refers)**
- 3 Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct**
- 4 Items not on the Agenda which the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances as defined in Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972**
- 5 Post Office Closure Programme**

At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Members of the Sub-Committee, was authorised to respond to the Post Office consultation by the deadline of 24 December 2007.

A copy of the response which was sent to the Post Office is attached (page 1) and included the following paragraph:

“The Council believes that the retention of the Landport branch is so vital to residents that it is prepared to consider meeting the cost of the provision of the space within the building where the Post Office is currently located if that would ensure its long term retention as a Post Office.” *(Note: Councillor Nicholson disagreed with the inclusion of this paragraph).*

The Post Office have now suggested a meeting to discuss in confidence the financial details relating to branches where there might be a possibility of local funding and to talk about how local funding could work in practice.

The Head of Democratic Services responded that what we had in mind was that the Council would take responsibility for the payment of rent and business rates in respect of the Post Office element of the Landport building. This would of course be on condition that the retention of the Landport Post Office must not be at the expense of any other branch in the District.

The Head of Democratic Services also stressed that any financial offer which may be discussed could only be on an informal basis and would need ultimately to be considered and agreed by the Council’s Cabinet.

The Post Office then sought clarification as to whether there are any other branches (in addition to Landport) that the Council might be interested in supporting financially as they understood that there may be others based on correspondence and conversations with Councillor Nicholson.

Councillor Nicholson is of the opinion that at this stage the discussions with the Post Office on the issue of financial support should be in relation to all of the branches in the Lewes District which are threatened with closure rather than just Landport.

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider whether there is a case for including any other Post Offices in the Lewes District in the discussions with the Post Office concerning possible financial support.

**Attached Documents:**

[Post Office Closure Programme](#)

[Post Office Closure Programme - Letter from Postwatch dated 21 January 2008](#)

**6 Notice of Motion – Response**

To receive and note the attached letter received from the Department Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in response to the Notice Motion passed by Council on 4 December 2007.

**Attached Documents:**

[Notice of Motion – Response](#)

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda, please contact Alan Batty at Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2LX. Telephone Lewes (01273) 484174.

**Distribution:** Councillors A C De Vecchi, J H Freeman and I A Nicholson.