

## MOTION TO COUNCIL 19 FEBRUARY 2008

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This Council believes that people in Taunton Deane value the role of local Post Offices in their community and do not wish to see the closure of any more Post Offices in this area.

This Council notes with concern that:

- Since 1999 under the current Labour Government 9 post offices have closed across the Taunton Constituency.
- A further 2,500 Post Office closures are planned nationwide
- The urban and rural networks of Post Offices will each sustain 50% of the planned closures which will result in further reduction in the number of Post Offices within Taunton Deane.
- One in five of the remaining Post Offices in the network are due to be closed, equating to 7 of the remaining 36 Post Offices in Taunton Constituency.
- The Post Office is mapping out the location of our areas Post Offices against criteria set by the Government, which will identify a potential closure profile, and commencing in February 2008 a six-week 'public consultation' will be undertaken on the closure proposals.
- The Government has further reduced the services available in Post Offices in Taunton Deane against the wishes of customers.
- There are no longer Sunday collections of mail in Taunton
- The latest time for posting mail in Taunton Deane is now 5.45pm. during the working week. It used to be 12 midnight

This Council resolves to:

- Oppose the Government's Post Office closure programme and respond to the consultation accordingly;
- Ask the Chief Executive to investigate ways that this Council can provide further services for Taunton Deane people via the network of local Post Offices;
- Ask a regional committee member of Postwatch to attend a meeting of the Executive of the Council to explain the dissatisfaction of this Council with both the intentions of the government and the process of consultation.
- Support our local MP in lobbying the Government to save the Post Office and to ask him to report back to this Council on his actions

- To increase the viability of the Post Office network this Council calls on the government to:

o End the branch closure programme;

o Remove the Royal Mail restrictions on the Post Office to open up further business opportunities for the network;

o Stop removing Government business from Post Offices;

o Carry out a review of which additional Government functions could be carried out through Post Offices

o Invest in the Post Office network.

PROPOSER  
SECONDER

ROSS HENLEY  
JEFFERSON HORSLEY

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