



Report Title: Scrutiny Review of Post Office Closures in Haringey (the national Network Change Programme)

Report of: Cllr Gideon Bull, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wards(s) affected: Noel Park,
Tottenham Green, Stroud Green &
Alexandra / ALL

Report for: Non Key

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

1.1 To note the final report of the review.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the final report of the review be noted.

Report Authorised by: Cllr Gideon Bull, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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3. Chief Financial Officer Comments

3.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no specific comment to make.

4. Head of Legal Services Comments

This Scrutiny review will take place within GLA pre- election period. Enhanced restrictions on local authority publicity during an election period are imposed by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity published under the Local Government Act 1986. During this period the Council should not engage in publicity surrounding controversial issues that may feature in the election nor must they give a platform for party political views that may have a bearing on election issues. The issue of post office closures is a potential issue in the forthcoming GLA elections. Members should recognise this and pay close attention to their terms of reference, being careful not to engage in any debate concerning the need for change or the principle of closures, concentrating instead on consideration of the local impact of the London Local Area Plan

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Network Change Programme: London Area Proposal Plan (Post Office Ltd, 2008)

Post Offices in London: future directions (London Assembly, July 2007)

The Post Office Network: Government response to the public consultation (DTI, 2007).

The Post Office Network: A consultation document (DTI, 2006)

All reports can be obtained by contacting Rob Mack, Overview & Scrutiny: 0208 489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Introduction

6. At its meeting on 17 March, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review of proposed post office closures in Haringey. A Panel of 8 Members was appointed to undertake the review. An event took place on 26 March to hear evidence from a wide range of stakeholders. Following the event, the Panel made a number of recommendations. Evidence from the event as well as the findings of the review have been incorporated into a review report.
7. The deadline for responses to the consultation on the closures was 2 April and the report is intended to be included as a key part of the Council's response. As the Committee was not scheduled to meet until 7 April, the meeting of 17 March delegated approval of the final report of the review to the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communication Service), in consultation with the Chair and the Opposition Spokesperson.
8. The review report is attached for information.

Legal and Finance Implications

9. Included within the attached report.

Equalities Implications

10. Included within the report.

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