

## **Council: 4 March 2008**

### **Emergency Motion: Cllr. Brian Coleman**

Council condemns the Post Office's decision to implement the business plan agreed by the Labour Government to close 2,500 Post Offices across the UK, including the following 8 in Barnet.

- Dollis Valley Post Office in Underhill Ward
- Potters Road Post Office in High Barnet Ward
- Childs Hill Post Office in Child's Hill Ward
- East End Road Post Office in East Finchley Ward
- High Road Post Office in Woodhouse Ward
- Nether Street Post Office in West Finchley Ward
- Pennine Parade Post Office in Golders Green Ward
- Watford Way Post Office in Hendon Ward

Council notes that since the Labour Government came to power in 1997, 4,000 branches have shut their doors, equivalent to a quarter of the network.

Council is further dismayed that Greater London Postwatch, supposedly the consumer's champion, has accepted in principle the closure of urban Post Offices.

Accordingly, Council believes that robust action must be taken in an effort to safeguard Barnet's Post Offices, which are a lifeline to the elderly and vulnerable, and a centre of community life.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Post Office Ltd. and Greater London Postwatch opposing the closures and urging the Post Office to hold proper discussions with Barnet over their proposals;
- Further instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Members of Parliament who represent the Borough seeking their support to oppose closure;
- Requests the Cabinet to consider inviting the Post Office to work with the Council on these closures;
- Requests the Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urgently investigate the Post Office's performance in the Borough; the effects of closure and other methods by which the services could be provided and make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council as appropriate.