

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report title	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Post Offices		
Contributors	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Item No.	3
Class	Part 1	Date	15 November 2017

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held on Post Offices at its meeting on 31 October 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section three of this referral and receive the Cass Business School report setting out the case for a national Post Bank (attached at Appendix A).

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.3 At the Committee's meeting on 31 October 2017, local Councillors heard from a representative of the Communication Workers' Union in addition to the Council's Head of Public Services about the potential impact of the proposed closures of the New Cross and Sydenham Crown Post offices. Members noted that non-Crown Post Offices, operating under franchise arrangements, are unable to offer the full range of post office services and that this would have a negative impact on consumers and the local economy.
- 3.4 The Committee also considered the Cass Business School report setting out the case for a national Post Bank (Appendix A). The Committee is of the view that the establishment of a Post Bank would enable the Post Office to be sustainable in the long term, by diversifying its portfolio of activities and increasing revenues. A state-owned Post Bank would also provide better access to finance for Small and Medium Enterprises, improved financial inclusion, a rebalancing of the UK economy away from London and other major urban centres and align the Post Office with the successful strategy of other postal operators around the world.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

6. Further Implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

Background papers

[Post Office Update](#) – report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 31.10.17

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (02083148286)