

<b>Mayor and Cabinet</b>		
<b>Title</b>	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Post Office changes	
<b>Contributor</b>	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Item x
<b>Class</b>	Part 1 (open)	22 March 2017

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions held on changes to Lewisham's post offices, considered at its meeting on 8 March 2017.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the Committee's comments, as set out in this report and ask the Executive Director for Customer Services to provide a response.

## **3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views**

- 3.1 On Wednesday 8 March 2017, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report entitled 'Post office changes'. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee notes the Council's decision in February 2017 to oppose the closure of New Cross crown post office and for the same reasons outlined in that decision the Committee opposes the closure of Sydenham crown post office. The Committee views the loss of skilled jobs, skilled staff and the economic impact on the high street as a likely serious blow to the local economy and to consumers.
- 3.3 The Committee asks that the Mayor write to the government minister responsible, and the Chief Executive of the Post Office, about the potential loss of Sydenham crown post office.
- 3.4 The Committee requests that Council officers be tasked with investigating how lease arrangements might be negotiated to retain the crown post office in Sydenham for the benefit of the local community.
- 3.5 The Chair of Committee intends to write to Jim Dowd about the potential closure Sydenham crown post office and asks that the Mayor do the same.
- 3.6 The Committee recommends that the Council should request further information from the Post Office about its strategy to preserve the full range of post office services for Lewisham residents.

## **4. Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there are financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

## **5. Legal implications**

5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

## **6. Further implications**

6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

## **Background papers**

Sustainable Development Select Committee agenda, 8 March 2017:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=136&Year=0>

If you have any queries about this report, please contact Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 471916) or Kevin Flaherty, Business and Committee Manager (ext. 49327)