



This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, on request.

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about this Agenda or on the "Public Participation" initiative please call Democratic Services on 01629 761133 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

15 July 2015

To: All Councillors

As a Member of the **Council**, please treat this as your summons to attend the meeting on **Thursday 23 July 2015 at 6.00pm in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MATLOCK.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Lamb', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sandra Lamb
Head of Corporate Services

AGENDA

OPENING ADDRESS

A presentation on National issues, particularly Housing and Planning, will be given by Stuart Young, Executive Director of East Midlands Councils.

1. APOLOGIES

Please advise Democratic Services on 01629 761133 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk of any apologies for absence.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To enable members of the public to ask questions, express views or present petitions, **IF NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**, (by telephone, in writing or by electronic mail) **BY NO LATER THAN 12 NOON OF THE DAY PRECEDING THE MEETING.**

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

25 June 2015

4. INTERESTS

Members are required to declare the existence and nature of any interests they may have in subsequent agenda items in accordance with the District Council's Code of Conduct. Those interests are matters that relate to money or that which can be valued in money, affecting the Member her/his partner, extended family and close friends. Interests that become apparent at a later stage in the proceedings may be declared at that time.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements of the Chairman of the District of Derbyshire Dales.

6. COMMITTEES

To receive the non-exempt minutes of the Committees shown below:

Committee	Date
Non Exempt Minutes to be Received	
Planning Committee	16 June 2015
Planning Committee	24 June 2015
Local Plan Advisory Committee	08 July 2015
Community and Environment Committee	09 July 2015

7. QUESTIONS (RULE OF PROCEDURE 15)

Questions, if any, from Members who have given notice.

Page Nos.

8. BANK CLOSURES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

3 – 10

To consider a report asking for endorsement of a letter sent to NatWest bank concerning planned bank branch closures in the Derbyshire Dales and note the response received from NatWest bank.

9. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT RENUMERATION PANEL

11 – 12

To consider a report recommending the formal appointment of an independent person for a four year term and the appointment of a temporary member of the panel for a period not exceeding six months.

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PLANNING COMMITTEE

13 – 14

To consider a report recommending that the Conservative Group appoints one of its Members to fill a vacancy on the Planning Committee following the resignation of one member.

11. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

To authorise that the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to those documents, if any, required to complete transactions undertaken by Committees or by way of delegated authority to others, since the last meeting of the Council.

NOTE

For further information about this Agenda or on "Public Participation" call 01629 761300 or e-mail committee@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

COUNCIL
23 JULY 2015

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Policy

BANK BRANCH CLOSURES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

SUMMARY

The report asks for Members' endorsement of a letter sent by the Leader of the Council concerning planned bank branch closures in the Derbyshire Dales.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The letter sent by the Leader of the Council to NatWest bank is endorsed.
2. The reply from NatWest bank is noted.

WARDS AFFECTED

All.

STRATEGIC LINK

The District Council's vision in its Corporate Plan includes towns and villages that offer a high quality of life, and it values the distinctiveness of communities.

1 REPORT

- 1.1 Following the closure of Wirksworth Post Office in 2014, and Darley Dale Post Office, the HSBC and Co-op banks in Matlock earlier in 2015, NatWest has announced the closures in September 2015 of the RBS branch in Darley Dale (3rd September), the NatWest branch in Hathersage (3rd September), the NatWest branch in Tideswell (23rd September) and the NatWest branch in Wirksworth (7th September).
- 1.2 Withdrawal of banking counter facilities threatens the sustainability of these towns and larger villages and the rural communities they serve. Loss of banking facilities risks greater financial exclusion amongst the older and vulnerable population of rural areas who suffer poor public transport.
- 1.3 Information from Rural Action Derbyshire suggests that closing bank branches and post offices affects people who are financially excluded through low income, age, disability or other vulnerability. These groups are less likely to bank online, and more likely to have either a basic bank account (some of which limit cashpoint use) or a Post Office Card account. Some may not have a current account and can only use the Post Office counter service to get money.

- 1.4 Whilst some people can access online banking – in spite of the poor broadband speeds in rural areas – this is by no means accessible to all. For those who rely on branch banking, including cash-based small businesses and some older people, the loss of vital financial services is a severe blow. Although footfall is in decline, for remaining users branch banking represents an important service.
- 1.5 As a result, the Leader of the Council wrote to NatWest Bank on 29 June 2015 expressing concern at their planned branch closures, and seeking a response on
- the timing of closures
 - the very limited mobile service planned
 - transitional measures to mitigate the impact of branch closures.
- 1.6 Members are asked to endorse the Leader's letter (Appendix 1), which has been shared with Rural Action Derbyshire and with Derbyshire County Council. A response has been received from NatWest Bank (Appendix 2). Whilst thorough and detailed, the response does not appear to address the concerns listed in the paragraph above.
- 1.7 Residents and communities have some alternative routes open to securing alternative banking facilities. The District Council has supported Derbyshire Community Bank (formerly Erewash Credit Union) in its plans to set up in the Derbyshire Dales' main towns by the end of this year, providing simple and ethical local banking options for residents and businesses. Established in 2006 and now the largest credit union in Derbyshire, Derbyshire Community Bank has a loan and savings book valued in excess of £1 million, and it is already used by a growing number of Derbyshire Dales residents.
- 1.8 From Autumn 2015, a LEADER fund will operate throughout the Derbyshire Dales and much of the wider Peak District. This EU grant fund is primarily aimed at growing small businesses and job creation in the rural economy. However, up to £274,000 is to be allocated to rural services. There are expected to be in the region of 18 rural services projects supported by this rural services fund, which aims to encourage more communities to deliver local services including co-located activities through social enterprises. There may be opportunities for small-scale grants, for example (for illustrative purposes) helping with the cost of installing a cashpoint in a village shop.

2 RISK ASSESSMENT

2.1 Legal.

The legal risk is low.

2.2 Financial.

The District Council has no power to intervene in bank closures. The financial risk is therefore assessed as low.

3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

Council banks letter report july2015.docx

CONTACT INFORMATION

Steve Capes, Head of Regeneration and Policy
01629 761371, email steve.capes@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 Letter sent by the Leader of the Council on 29 June 2015
Appendix 2 Letter in reply received from NatWest bank dated 2 July 2015



Jane Solomon
 Local Chief Executive Officer, Derby
 NatWest Bank
 c/o Sutton and Kirkby Branch
 PO Box 23
 Portland Square
 Sutton in Ashfield
 Notts. NG17 1BA

Please ask for: Dr Steve Capes
Telephone: 01629 761371
E-mail: steve.capes@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
Date: 29 June 2015
My ref:

Dear Ms Solomon

BRANCH CLOSURES IN THE DERBYSHIRE DALES

I am writing in response to reports of multiple bank branch closures in the Derbyshire Dales during 2015.

The Council is very concerned to learn that, following the closure of Wirksworth Post Office in 2014 and the HSBC in Matlock earlier in 2015, we will in September 2015 lose the RBS branch in Darley Dale, the NatWest branch in Hathersage, the NatWest branch in Tideswell and the NatWest branch in Wirksworth. Withdrawal of banking counter facilities threatens the sustainability of rural communities.

The above towns and large villages act as service centres to their surrounding rural communities in the Derbyshire Dales. Loss of banking facilities risks greater financial exclusion amongst the older and vulnerable population of rural areas who suffer poor public transport.

Whilst some can access online banking – in spite of the poor broadband speeds endured by rural areas – this is by no means accessible to all. For those who rely on branch banking, including cash-based small businesses and some older people, the loss of vital financial services is a severe personal blow. Although we recognise footfall may be in decline, for remaining users branch banking is a lifeline.

The Council understands the changing nature of banking, but requests you to consider the needs of rural residents and businesses who do not have same access to alternatives as those in larger towns and cities. We accept that mobile banking services might be a partial replacement, but would respectfully suggest that 90 minutes service per week in a town or village is inadequate. We consider that such a poor service is likely to attract few customers, leading to your withdrawing it in the near future due to lack of custom.

/...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE : Dorcas Bunton BSc, CPFA
 Town Hall, MATLOCK, Derbyshire DE4 3NN

.../

The District Council considers that your planned withdrawal of banking branch services across our towns and villages all at once will have detrimental impact on the sustainability of rural communities in the Derbyshire Dales. I should therefore be grateful if you would:

- re-consider the timing of closures
- look to extend the very limited mobile service I understand is planned
- review what other transitional measures that you could put in place to mitigate the impact of branch closures.

An early response on these points would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROSE OBE
Leader of the Council

Rural services letter june2015.doc

cc The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP, Member of Parliament for Derbyshire Dales

Councillor Lewis Rose OBE
Leader of the Council
Town Hall
MATLOCK
Derbyshire
DE4 3NN



2nd July 2015

Dear Councillor Rose

Thank you for taking the time to contact me. I can assure you that taking the decision to close the NatWest branches in Hathersage, Tideswell and Wirksworth was difficult and we did not make it lightly. There are now more ways of banking with us than ever before, and as a result our customers are increasingly using alternative ways of banking with us in the local area, including by phone, and through our Online and Mobile Banking services, and we have to respond to these changes. More than 46% of our customers now bank with us online and 26% of our customers log onto Online or Mobile banking every day.

Natwest Hathersage

There has been a 20% decline in the number of transactions carried out at Hathersage branch since 2011. Just 24 customers use the branch every week, and 16 of these customers also use other local branches

NatWest Tideswell

There has been a 25% decline in the number of transactions carried out at Tideswell branch since 2011. Just 19 customers use the branch every week, and 8 of these customers also use other local branches.

NatWest Wirksworth

There has been a 25% decline in the number of transactions carried out at Wirksworth branch since 2011. Just 74 customers use the branch every week, and 29 of these customers also use other local branches.

I do appreciate that not all customers want to use telephone, online or mobile banking for their day to day needs, so for these reasons we will be retaining our Cash Machine service in Tideswell and in Wirksworth, and there is a RBS cash machine in Hathersage which is free to use, and we have also made an arrangement with the Post office which will enable our customers to:

- Make cash withdrawals using a NatWest Debit card and pin number, up to £300 per day, or the value of the card limit, whichever is the lower
- Obtain balance enquiries using a NatWest Debit card and pin number
- Pay cash in using a pre printed credit slip

- Pay cheques in using a pre printed credit slip (please note cash and cheques cannot be mixed together), and a NatWest Pay in envelope, supplied by the Post Office

Our business customers will be able to pay in at main post offices, obtain change, and withdraw cash using a debit card. This service is available at Hathersage and Tideswell and both Post masters have told us they will welcome NatWest customers. There is no current Post Office at Wirksworth following its closure and the plan to open in the Co Op having fallen through, however I am aware that there is a current position advertised and there is an intention to re open a Post Office in Wirksworth. The nearest Post Office to Wirksworth is at Cromford which is 2.1 miles away.

NatWest Mobile Bank

As you are aware, we are introducing a Mobile Bank into the communities at Hathersage, Tideswell and Wirksworth. The Mobile Bank is not intended to replace the branch and is a service we are introducing to support our older or vulnerable customers who may be unable to travel to another branch. The Mobile Bank will also have pre ordered change for our business customers, and will accept deposits and withdrawals for our business customers, as well as carrying a small amount of change on demand.

I am in the process of planning the route, however to provide a rough idea, the Mobile Bank will visit on Wednesdays and Fridays as follows:

Hathersage 10:00 – 10:45, location to be confirmed

Tideswell 11:15 – 12:00, at The George Inn car park (provisional permission received)

Wirksworth 14:00 – 14:45 on Wednesdays, 14:00 – 15:30 on Fridays, location has been suggested as the lay-by alongside Waltham House Care Centre on St Johns Street, Wirksworth by Wirksworth Councillors.

I'm aware I will need permission to park the Mobile Van and I would welcome any suggestions you may have around suitable locations at Hathersage and Wirksworth.

Online and Mobile Banking Clinics

We are in the process of offering Online and/or Mobile Banking clinics to our customers who may currently use a PC at home but do not currently bank with us Online. We will take the time with customers who would like our help on how to register and activate Online banking or Mobile banking and show them how to use it at our branches.

We've also offered a number of ways to make it easier for our customers to bank with us such as; Get Cash, Pay Your Contacts, Text Alerts, Web Chat and making our complaints and general enquiries telephone numbers free phone.

Please be reassured that this is not a strategy based on cost cutting and we are in fact investing £1 billion over the next few years in upgrading over 400 branches across the UK and in improving our online and mobile banking.

I understand that you are disappointed and unhappy with our decision to close the NatWest branches at Hathersage, Tideswell and Wirksworth, however I hope that I have helped to explain the reasons for our decision, and the ways customers can still bank with us in the local area.

In relation to the RBS at Darley Dale I will forward your letter to my counterpart in RBS, who will respond separately.

If you would like to discuss things further, please don't hesitate to get in touch

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Solomon', written in a cursive style.

Jane Solomon
Local CEO, Derby & Peak District
0778 9923501

COUNCIL
23 JULY 2015

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – RECRUITMENT OF INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

SUMMARY

This report recommends the formal appointment of independent persons for form the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Mr Philip Woodward is formally appointed as a member of the Independent Remuneration with a four year term of office ending in 2019.
2. That Mr Roger Tebb is appointed as temporary member of the Panel for a period not exceeding six months.

WARDS AFFECTED

Not applicable

STRATEGIC LINK

Not applicable

1. REPORT

- 1.1** The District Council has a scheme of Members' Allowances which is due for review. To do so, it must appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider the scheme and make recommendations to the Council for consideration. Following an open recruitment exercise one applicant was interviewed by the Head of Corporate Services and Councillor FitzHerbert on 3 July.
- 1.2** The applicant, Mr Philip Woodward demonstrated his suitability for appointment to the position and meets the statutory requirements regarding the need to demonstrate independence from the District Council. Mr Woodward's appointment is therefore recommended for a four year term.
- 1.3** Ideally a Panel of four members, with a quorum of three is required. A previous member of the Panel, Mr Roger Tebb, has subsequently offered his services for a limited period of time sufficient to conduct the review. Mr Tebb does not wish to commit for a four year period and his continued independence has been verified. It is therefore recommended that Mr Tebb join the Panel for its immediate piece of work in reviewing the Scheme of Allowances for a time period not exceeding six months.

- 1.4** To complete the membership, enquiries have been made of other Derbyshire authorities to see if any neighbouring Panel members are willing to work on the Derbyshire Dales review. An update will be provided at the meeting. If no volunteers come forward, the recruitment process will need to be re-advertised.
- 1.5** The basic terms of reference of the IRP once commissioned will be to make recommendations as to:
- o the level of Basic Allowance for all Members;
 - o the categories of special responsibility for which a Special Responsibility Allowance should be paid and the levels of those allowances;
 - o whether Dependant Carers' allowance should be payable to Members and the amount of such an allowance;
 - o travelling and subsistence allowances; and
 - o any annual uplift.
- 1.6** The Panel will be supported by the Head of Corporate Services and the Head of Resources.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

The scheme of Members' Allowances is made in accordance with Section 99 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Authority (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The recruitment process as described meets with the requirements and the legal risk is therefore low.

Financial

The cost of the advertisement has been met from existing budgets. Members of the Panel are entitled to an allowance whilst undertaking work as members of the IRP. The cost can be met from existing budgets, therefore the financial risk is low.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, climate change, health, and human rights.

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

Sandra Lamb, Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, Tel. 01629 761281 or email sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

5. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

COUNCIL
23 JULY 2015

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PLANNING COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

This report requests the Conservative Group to recommend the appointment of a replacement member to the Planning Committee following the resignation of one member.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Conservative Group appoints one of its Members to fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee

WARDS AFFECTED

Not applicable

STRATEGIC LINK

Not applicable

1. REPORT

- 1.1 The Planning committee comprises 17 members, all of whom are appointed to reflect the political balance of the Council. Councillor R Bright wishes to resign from being a member of the Committee from 23 July thereby creating a vacancy in the gift of the Conservative Group.
- 1.2 Council is therefore required to make a formal decision to reflect the wishes of the Conservative Group in appointing a replacement. Each seat on the Committee is entitled to a substitute and depending on the name of the appointee, this may trigger a need to nominate a new substitute.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT

Legal

Membership on committees is subject to the rules of political proportionality as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The legal risk is therefore low.

Financial

There are no financial considerations arising from the report.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, environmental, climate change, health, and human rights.

4. CONTACT INFORMATION

Sandra Lamb, Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer, Tel. 01629 761281 or email sandra.lamb@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

5. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None