

## **CABINET – 17 JANUARY 2017**

### **ITEM 6 – BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN COALVILLE ("COALVILLE PROJECT") - UPDATE**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR J LEGRYS TO COUNCILLOR R BLUNT**

A petition signed by 500 people has been presented to the Council to retain Coalville Town Centre Post Office at its current location. Can you please tell me what you as Leader are personally undertaking to negotiate directly with the Directors of the Post Office to keep the franchise at the current location?

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BLUNT**

All council members were made aware of the Post Office's public consultation on the proposed relocation of the current Marlborough Square Post Office operation to HKS Clock Tower on Ashby Road in November 2016.

I, as Leader of the Council, wrote a letter to the Post Office, as part of that consultation, and the Chief Executive submitted a formal response via the public consultation process. Subsequently, the petition mentioned in the question was forwarded to the Post Office.

The initial response from the Post Office explained their Network Transformation Programme. This seeks to address the challenging commercial environment in which their service operates and the aim to create a self-sufficient network. They confirmed that the current operator of the Post Office has decided not to continue to deliver the Post Office service on the new terms that they had specified.

The Post Office is conducting a transparent and competitive recruitment process seeking a new agent in Coalville. The opportunity was advertised through a national website. HKS Clock Tower was successful in the initial stages of the recruitment process and was the subject of the local public consultation.

I propose that the Chief Executive, with Cllr Legrys and Cllr Clarke, will seek to meet with Post Office officials to discuss their approach as the recruitment process continues. However we must all be clear that the Council has no influence on the Post Office's final decision over and above my contribution to the public consultation or any other representations made by elected Members.