

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: PROPOSALS TO CLOSE POST OFFICES WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S AREA
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 5 January 2005	Ref: MS/MT	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To advise Members of correspondence received from Post Office regarding their proposals to close post offices within the Council's area.

## 2. Background

- 2.1. Members will recall that at its meeting held on 27 October 2004, the Committee were advised of a consultation by Post Office on proposals for branches of the post office they were putting forward for potential closure and agreed that I be authorised to respond to Post Office, setting out the Council's opposition to the closures.

## 3. Proposals

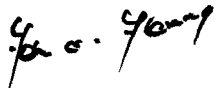
- 3.1. During the period of consultation, Post Office received feed-back from, in addition to the Council, Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Local Elected Members, customers and Postwatch. Some customers also chose to express their views by signing Petitions and a Post Office representative attended a public meeting to discuss their proposals for the Greenfaulds Branch in more detail.
- 3.2. Notwithstanding the representations made Post Office have now indicated their view that they could continue to provide the current level of service to their customers in the areas with fewer branches and stated that, they have considered all the points raised, in responses to the consultation, they have determined that the permanent closure of Carfin, Greenfaulds, Holytown, Kirkshaws, Merry Street, Sikeside, West Crindledyke, Newmains and Viewpark Branches should proceed. However, Post Office are still considering the feed-back received in relation to the Clarkston Branch and as soon as they have reached a decision, will advise the Council accordingly.
- 3.3. Post Office advise that Sikeside Branch will close on 24 January 2005; Viewpark and Merry Street, Motherwell will close on 25 January 2005; Greenfaulds Branch will close on 29 January 2005, Kirkshaws will close on 7 February 2005 and West Crindledyke, Newmains will close on 8 February 2005 and further advice will be forthcoming when the dates of the intention of the remaining post offices are known.

## 4. Considerations

- 4.1. Members are asked to note that, notwithstanding, the strong representations made, and without giving the Council an opportunity to make further representation, Post Office have reached a final decision.

**5. Recommendation**

5.1. It is recommended that Members note the position.



**Director of Administration**

*Members seeking further information on this report should contact Mr. Fleming, Head of Central Services on extension 2228.*