

Addition to the Executive Members statement of County Councillor Helen Swiers

POST OFFICES

North Yorkshire County Council is very disappointed and concerned at the scale of the proposed post office closures across the county area. As well as making the strongest possible representations to Post Office Limited the County Council wants to take every step possible to work with partners to help alleviate some of the consequences of this closure programme. One of the particular areas of concern relates to local shops and other similar facilities which rely, in part, on operating as a post office alongside other parts of their business for their survival. I have asked officers from the County Council to speak as a matter of urgency with officers within Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency, and with Business Link to examine what package of advice and support it is possible to put together for such businesses. Businesses of this type who wish to carry on serving the local communities will need help to diversify and to fill the gap that will be left by the loss of their post office service. At this stage I am not sure what can be achieved however, I am convinced that we have an obligation to these businesses and communities across North Yorkshire to encourage these and other agencies to help where possible.
