

Public Document Pack

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14 December 2018

Dear Member,

County Council - Friday, 14 December 2018

Please find enclosed proposed amendments to the motions set out below which will be debated at the meeting of the County Council to be held on Friday, 14 December 2018.

Agenda No	Item
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6(d)	Motion on Women standing for Election (Pages 3 - 4)
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Amendment by Mrs Mullins attached.

6(e)	Motion on Bus Services (Pages 5 - 6)
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Amendment by Mr Parikh attached.

6(f)	Motion on Post Offices (Pages 7 - 8)
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Amendment by Mrs Millson attached.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

To all members of the County Council

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County Council

14 December 2018

**Item 6(d) Notice of Motion from Ms Flynn on
Women standing for Election**

Amendment by Mrs Mullins

It is 100 years since the Representation of the People Act 1918, allowing many more men to vote and some women to vote as well as stand for election. This Council celebrates the first two women councillors first elected, Ellen Chapman and the Hon Evelyn Gladys Cecil, who took their place in the Council in 1919 immediately after women were allowed to participate in local elections. Progress has been made for a diverse representation of Councillors but there is still some way to go.

This Council ~~believes that a Woman's place is in the Chamber – the Council Chamber – and supports~~ all efforts between now and the County Council elections in 2021 to attract more women to put themselves forward to stand for election as a county councillor.

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County Council

14 December 2018

Item 6(e) Notice of Motion on Bus Services from Dr O'Kelly

Amendment by Mr Parikh

In West Sussex, some 27 million passenger journeys are made each year, many of which are made on commercial services. This Council recognises the value of buses to the residents of West Sussex, not only in terms of transport for economic, leisure and education reasons, but also the social value they provide to our communities.

This Council recognises that the promotion of bus services and the Council's support for non-commercial services helps to improve the quality of life for many people and assists in delivering these priorities set out in the West Sussex Plan:

- (a) Independence for later life: services that support older people in later life to live independently. Availability of bus services enables older people to travel more without reliance on a car, avoiding the risks of social isolation that may come from a lack of ability to travel.
- (b) Best start in life: Good bus service provision provides access to early education and education settings for children and allows for greater choice. It also helps young people to access a wider choice of further education and employment.
- (c) Strong, safe and sustainable place: Environmental sustainability can be achieved through modal shift to more use of bus services, reducing the number of cars on the road, which improves road safety and air quality.
- (d) A prosperous place: Good bus service provision forms a key sustainable infrastructure to support the economy and encourage the visitor economy, particularly into rural areas. A good bus network helps to realise the aim that opportunities should be available to all and to help businesses to thrive through more sustainable transport and a reduction in traffic congestion.

Finally this Council recognises the hard work of the officers and the Executive Task and Finish Group during the recent bus review. It calls on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to **make every effort to** retain all **current coverage of** the services under review **by engaging with local members, communities and local businesses working through an Executive Task and Finish Group to develop a 'Community Transport' option for the county for current and future sustainability.** ~~to allow more time for the team to develop partnerships and to work with all tiers of local government in seeking additional funding.~~

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County Council

14 December 2018

Item 6(f) Notice of Motion from Mrs Mullins on Post Offices

Amendment from Mrs Millson

- (a) This Council notes with concern that:

On 11 October 2018 it was announced that 74 crown post offices across the UK, including those in Crawley and Worthing will be franchised to WH Smith. Taken together, successive franchise announcements mean the loss of 60% of the crown office network since 2013.

These privatisations are financed using millions of pounds of public money, despite the fact that the public has never endorsed the closures, indeed they have only ever protested against them. Indeed, despite considerable campaigning over recent years with huge local public support (frequently with tens of thousands of local residents' signing petitions) the crown post offices in Chichester, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton, Horsham, Shoreham-by-Sea and Haywards Heath were all closed despite the overwhelming will *wish* of the public that they remain open.

~~In 2014/15 alone, £13 million of public money was used to pay compensation to get rid of post office staff, and the Communication Workers Union (CWU) estimates the staff compensation cost of the latest privatisation will be at least £30 million, affecting as it does, 800 staff.~~

Reports by Consumer Focus (2012) and Citizens Advice (2016) have identified issues with the franchising of post offices to WH Smith including poor accessibility for people with mobility impairments, longer queuing times, and inferior service and advice on products.

~~Franchising means the loss of jobs with good terms and conditions at the Post Office. WH Smith replaces experienced post office staff with new employees in typically minimum wage part time roles. This is clearly bad for jobs in West Sussex and Post Office workers, many of whom are our local residents.~~

~~The closure of our Crown post offices and relocation to a WH Smith, also means the loss of prime high street stores and this contributes to the demise of our town centres. No explanation has been given as to why the profit-making Crown post offices such as those of Crawley and Worthing are being handed to WH Smith.~~

~~All Crown post offices are under threat of closure and/or franchising in future, if the latest round of privatisations are allowed to go ahead, it could prove the tipping point for the viability of the entire post office network.~~

(b) This Council notes that on 15 November 2018 the majority of members on Crawley County Local Committee agreed to call on the Leader of this Council, in her role as the lead on Economy matters, to respond to the consultation on the relocation of Crawley Post Office on behalf of the County Council, opposing the relocation.

(c) This Council believes that:

Our post offices are a key asset for the community, and the expertise and experience of **the** staff ~~there~~ is invaluable.

The relentless franchising and closure programme of the profit-making Crown post offices, points to a lack of vision rather than the plan for growth and innovation that is needed.

~~The Government should therefore halt these closures and bring together stakeholders, including the CWU, and industry experts to develop a new strategy that safeguards the future of the Post Office.~~

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Government to raise concern about the apparent managed decline of the post office network and the impact on high streets across the UK as well as the service in the franchised premises ~~and the poor quality jobs that result;~~
- (2) Ask the Leader to respond to current consultations on the Post Office in Haywards Heath and Worthing to **focus on the principles set out in this motion** ~~oppose the proposals;~~ and
- (3) To **work** ~~join local campaigning~~ to raise awareness of the value of our Post Office **local network**, and the need for it to remain **in our communities** ~~an asset of and for the people.~~