

Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	23 September 2021
Report By:	Interim Head of Legal Services	Report No:	CM/LS/079/21
Contact Officer:	Anne Sinclair	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Review of Bank and Post Office Closures – Notice of Motion by Councillor MacLeod		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Council of the receipt of a Notice of Motion by Councillor MacLeod, countersigned by Councillor Curley, relative to the review of bank and post office closures, submitted in terms of Standing Order 22.
- 1.2 The terms of the Notice of Motion are set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Council considers the request by Councillor MacLeod.

Anne Sinclair
Interim Head of Legal Services

Appendix 1

Council notes with great concern the bank branch and post office closures across Port Glasgow over the past few years.

Inverclyde now only has one RBS branch. In Port Glasgow the RBS, Clydesdale and TSB have all closed their branches.

These closures have a very real impact on vulnerable members of our community who need access to banking and postal services.

We understand that banks are entitled to make commercial decisions which result in branch closures, however this is often detrimental to people's ability to access cash.

Recent research conducted by Which found that almost 10 million people in the UK were not ready to stop using cash while over half of those aged 65 plus still do not use internet banking.

Access to cash is vital to local economic recovery especially post-pandemic.

Therefore Council believes that the UK government should introduce legislation which acknowledges that banks have a responsibility to ensure the local community and businesses can access cash and banking services. This legislation could also protect our vital post offices by mandating that banks provide their banking services via the already established and regulated post office network.

This motion:

- Requests that Inverclyde Council reviews bank and post office closures across Inverclyde.
- Requests the Chief Executive writes to the relevant minister stating the concern of the Council with respect to the above in relation to the impact on the local economy, on the well-being of the local community and requesting nationwide legislation to mandate that banks provide banking services via the post office network when local branches close.

Proposed: Cllr MacLeod

Seconded: Cllr Curley