

# Council 28 November 2024

Meeting recording: [(1) Cambridge City Council - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@camcitco/streams)

## Motion 6c. Cambridge Post Office

Council notes that

* + 1. The Post Office has proposed to close 115 branches in the UK, including Cambridge’s city centre “Crown Office” on St. Andrew’s Street;
    2. That a local Labour-led campaign in October 2018 condemning proposals to move Cambridge’s main Post Office into WH Smith including representations from Labour MP Daniel Zeichner, trade unions and labour councillors succeeded in securing a withdrawal of such proposal;
    3. The current Post Office located in a prominent and accessible high street location close to public transport, is routinely busy and widely used by residents across the city as well as by its many visitors;
    4. The Post Office is a wholly-owned government corporation, representing the nature of the public service that it provides and the social impact it makes.
    5. That the Communications Workers Union (CWU) has condemned the closure plans which will put about 2,000 jobs at risk, stating that ‘CWU members are victims of the Horizon scandal and for them to now fear for their jobs ahead of Christmas is yet another cruel attack.’ Additionally, Labour MPs have expressed concern about the proposed closure of the branches and called for the Post Office to preserve its community presence.
    6. Cambridge’s Labour MP Daniel Zeichner has continued to be outspoken to support the local Cambridge branch, stating that ‘News of its potential closure raises concerns about service continuity, accessibility on their plans and urging them to prioritise the needs of our community in their decision-making.’
    7. Daniel Zeichner has been in touch directly with the Post Office who have confirmed that no decisions have yet been made regarding its Directly Managed Branches and agreeing to a meeting where he will continue to advocate for the interests of Cambridge residents and businesses.

Council believes that:

* + 1. It is a legitimate expectation that a growing city such as Cambridge, which includes a large tourist sector, continues to maintain a standalone Crown Office in its centre to complement the network of franchised postmasters serving neighbourhood areas and sparsely populated areas, who combine their service with other businesses;
    2. That the alternative, as proposed in the previous exercise, to integrate the main post office as a subordinate activity of a corporate retailer, will not be acceptable on grounds of visibility, accessibility or trusted public service ethos;
    3. The withdrawal of this public service provider operating in its own right from the city centre would be a regrettable erosion of diversity on the high street, removing an important ingredient of many people’s wider purpose in going there.

Council resolves to make representations against the proposed closure in Cambridge and authorises the Chief Executive to communicate these within the appropriate Post Office consultative channels, alongside local Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner in his ongoing conversations with the Post Office and government.