

MOTION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL 27 October 2020

Closure of TSB Branch in North Berwick

East Lothian Council notes the decision by TSB to close its branch in North Berwick on 19 January 2021, as part of a national closure programme which will see 164 branches close across the UK with the loss of 900 jobs. This decision will leave only one bank branch open in the North Berwick Coastal ward. East Lothian Council further notes that this decision comes soon after the closure of TSB's Dunbar branch, which closed in May 2020.

East Lothian Council knows that banks offer vital services and that for many of our most vulnerable citizens the ability to use those services is harmed when they are unable to access a physical building due to branch closure.

East Lothian Council believes that this is a short-sighted decision that does not take into account that East Lothian is the second-fastest growing area in Scotland.

Additionally, East Lothian Council knows that banks offer services that are vital to the operation of many local businesses, including in North Berwick, in operational terms such as the ability to put cash into accounts and to access direct local advice, assistance and services.

Therefore, the Council is asked to approve the following actions:

- That the Council's Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive of TSB to express disappointment at the decision of TSB to close the North Berwick branch.
- That the Council's Chief Executive writes to the chief executives of all the major banks with branches in East Lothian to request information as to the future of those branches. The Chief Executive should also take the opportunity to highlight the importance of branches being kept open and available to our communities, given that East Lothian is a growing area, and therefore a place that banks should be looking to increase their business.

Proposed by (name): Councillor Jeremy Findlay
Date: 12 October 2020

Seconded by (name): Councillor Lachlan Bruce
Date: 12 October 2020

Received by (name of officer): Lel Gillingwater, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing,
Date: 12 October 2020