

MOTION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL
25 April 2023

Motion: The Proposed Closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland Branch in Tranent

This Council notes the decision by the Royal Bank of Scotland to close its branch in Tranent.

Council is aware that this action will remove the only bank in the Tranent area, and will result in this area having no banking facilities, and this ignores the needs of local businesses, community and voluntary sector groups, charities and the local community, who need a face-to-face service.

Council believes that this decision by the Royal Bank of Scotland takes no account of the fact that East Lothian is one of the fastest growing areas in the whole of Scotland.

Council is appalled that the Royal Bank of Scotland has chosen this course of action in closing the last remaining bank in this community with no consultation or discussion. This is 7 years after the Royal Bank of Scotland closed its branch in Prestonpans, leaving that community without a bank, and transferring accounts to Tranent.

Council is deeply concerned that due consideration has not been given to the disproportionate impact on older people, those with disabilities, and those who rely on others to support them with local banking, and for whom a call centre or digital banking will not meet their needs.

Council therefore agrees:

To instruct the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to seek an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland to express this Council's extreme concern at their decision, and to explore other options with Royal Bank of Scotland for keeping the branch open and to ensure we retain access to banking services locally.

Proposed by (name): Councillor Fiona Dugdale
Date: 10 April 2023

Seconded by (name): Councillor Colin McGinn
Date: 11 April 2023

Received by (name of officer): Lel Gillingwater, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing
Date: 11 April 2023