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| <b>Item No.</b><br>5               | <b>Classification:</b><br>Open       | <b>Date:</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> March 2004 | <b>Meeting Name:</b><br>Overview & Scrutiny Committee |
| <b>Report Title:</b>               | Post office closures – briefing note |  |   |
| <b>Ward(s) or Groups Affected:</b> | All                                  |  |   |
| <b>From:</b>                       | Head of Corporate Strategy           |  |   |

## RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to consider the background information on the programme of post office closures, and take a view on when and how to approach the topic.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members proposed that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&SC) look at the question of post office closures. I have drawn together background information to inform the committee's view as to when and how to approach this topic. Appended to this note is:

- the latest ministerial announcement on consultation arrangements,
- briefing notes from Postwatch (the consumer body) on the current position and the criteria they will apply to assessing proposed closures in London
- the current list of proposed closures – none local

The Public Services Committee of the Greater London Authority is currently looking at this topic and is in the process of commissioning research on the impact of closures on the lives of Londoners and how shopkeepers and other businesses have been affected. Also attached is a transcript of that committee's initial discussion with representatives of the Post Office itself, Postwatch and local campaign members (includes reference to franchising plans for Camberwell and Peckham post offices).

Based on all the information, possible actions for Overview and Scrutiny are as follows, and these are not mutually exclusive:

- revisit the topic on publication of the GLA report
- invite Post Office managers to discuss their plans for Southwark post offices, linking with the face to face services issue already flagged by O&SC
- invite Postwatch Greater London to brief the committee and consider approach

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. There are no additional legal implications raised by this report.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7. There are no specific resource implications raised by this report.

### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no additional equalities implications raised by this report.

### **Audit Trail**

Lead Officer                      Shelley Burke, Head of Overview and Scrutiny  
Report Author  
Version                              Final  
Dated                                 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004

### **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

| <b>Officer Title</b>          | <b>Comments Sought</b> | <b>Comments included</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Borough Solicitor & Secretary | No                     | No                       |
| Chief Finance Officer         | No                     | No                       |
| Executive Member              | No                     | No                       |