

Opposition to the Privatisation of Royal Mail

Proposed by Cllr Tony Kearon on behalf of the Labour Group.

This council notes the proposal by the government to privatise the Royal Mail and wishes to place on record its opposition to the process of privatisation taking place within the Royal Mail and the threat to the 'six day, one price goes anywhere' delivery. These proposals will lead to higher prices and a worse service for residents across the Borough.

This council notes that the proposals for the privatisation of Royal Mail are opposed by the Federation of Sub-Postmasters; opposed by 96% of Royal Mail employees; opposed by 71% of Royal Mail managers; opposed by the Communication Workers Union, and according to a poll conducted the Bow Group is opposed by 67% of the public (inc. 52% of Conservative supporters).

This council believes that the privatisation of Royal Mail, coupled with the separation from the Post Office by the Postal Services Act 2011, could put rural sub-post offices in Newcastle-under-Lyme in danger of closure if new owners seek to renegotiate contracts. Most sub-post offices are reliant upon provision of Royal Mail services in order to remain viable.

This council further believes that it is within the interests of local residents for the Royal Mail to remain a publicly owned company, ensuring the continuation of the daily delivery service, protecting the free mail for HM Armed Forces, keep prices reasonable and competitive and ensure that rural communities remain connected and with a reliable service.

This council mandates the Leader to write to Michael Fallon MP and Vince Cable MP expressing our objection to the privatisation of Royal Mail.

This council further mandates that the Leader write to the 4 Members of Parliament representing the Borough and urge them to vote against any privatisation plans.