



Dear Customer

Blaydon On Tyne Post Office®
Previously located at - Co-op Store, Unit 20, The Precinct,
Blaydon-On-Tyne, NE21 5BT

Local public consultation

We are proposing to re-open the above Post Office branch at a new location – Blaydon Convenience Store, 3 Harriet Street, Blaydon-On-Tyne, NE21 4DE and change it to one of our new local style branches. This branch closed temporarily in August 2015 following the withdrawal of premises for Post Office use. We are now in a position to restore a service to our customers in the local community and the establishment of a new local style branch presents the best possible solution in the area.

Why are we moving?

We're proposing this move as part of the ongoing modernisation of our branch network. Over the last five years we have transformed over 7,500 branches so more customers can access Post Office products and services in a modern and friendly environment, often over longer hours including Sundays. We are confident that introducing a local style branch alongside a successful retail store is the most effective way to safeguard sustainable Post Office services in the Blaydon-On-Tyne community into the future.

Your new Post Office branch

Customers would access Post Office services at a low-screened, open-plan, modern serving point that's part of the retail counter. Working with the operator, we'd adapt the current store layout, fixtures and fittings to accommodate the Post Office till if needed. The branch will offer a wide range of Post Office products and services over longer opening hours, so customers can access their Post Office when it's convenient. Customer satisfaction with local style branches stands at 96 per cent, and nearly 20 per cent of local branch customers visit outside traditional opening hours.

Consulting on the proposed new location

In order to restore a Post Office service to our customers as quickly as possible, the new branch will open during consultation on Thursday 10 May 2018. However we would still like your views on the service offer at the new location. We are now starting a 6 week local public consultation and would like you to tell us what you think about the suitability of the new location, particularly on the following areas:

- How easy it is to get to the new location?
- Are the new premises easy for you to get into and is the inside easily accessible?
- Are there any other local community issues affected by the move?
- Is there anything we could do to make it easier for customers?

I've enclosed an information sheet that provides more details about the new location and the range of products that will be available. If you have any comments or questions, please email or write to me via our National Consultation team, whose contact details are below. Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new branch.

You can share your views on the proposed change through our easy and convenient online questionnaire via the link below. When entering the site you can use the search function to find the consultation for this branch either by branch name, postcode or the unique branch code 158329

postofficeviews.co.uk

Dates for local public consultation:

Local Public Consultation starts	29 March 2018
Local Public Consultation ends	14 May 2018
Date of change	10 May 2018

In this instance we have extended public consultation by 2 working days to allow for the holiday period over Easter.

Although the new branch will open on 10 May 2018, this does not affect the period of public consultation which is ongoing until 14 May 2018.

I've included information about the Code of Practice over the page and a copy of the Code will also be available to view in the branch.

Thank you for considering our proposal. At the end of the consultation we'll let you know our final plans by displaying a poster in the branch.

Yours faithfully



Suzanne Richardson
Regional Network Manager

How to contact us:

postofficeviews.co.uk

comments@postoffice.co.uk

Customer Helpline: 03452 66 01 15

Textphone: 03457 22 33 55

FREEPOST Your Comments

**This is all you need to add to your
envelope for your letter to reach us**

Want to tell us what you
think right here and now
– scan here.

If you don't have a QR
code scanner on your
phone, you can find one
in your app store.



Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive. Therefore, responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the consultation period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Blaydon On Tyne Post Office information sheet			
	New Post Office branch location		
Address	Blaydon Convenience Store 3 Harriet Street Blaydon-On-Tyne NE21 4DE		
Post Office opening hours		Mon	09:00 – 19:00
		Tue	09:00 – 19:00
		Wed	09:00 – 19:00
		Thu	09:00 – 19:00
		Fri	09:00 – 19:00
		Sat	09:00 – 19:00
		Sun	09:00 – 14:00
Distance	650 metres away from the current branch, along varied terrain.		
Accessibility	Access and facilities The new premises has a wide door and a small step at the entrance. However the new operator will be installing a permanent ramp at the entrance. Internally, there will be a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.		
	Parking There is roadside parking directly outside of the new premises and on nearby side roads.		
	Buses There are frequent buses running from the previous branch to the new premises. The nearest bus stop is approximately 190 metres away.		
Retail	Convenience store		
Local Public Consultation starts	29 March 2018		
Local Public Consultation ends	14 May 2018		
Date of change	10 May 2018		

To get this information in a different format, for example, in larger print, audio or braille please contact the Customer Helpline on 03452 66 01 15 or Textphone 03457 22 33 55.

Blaydon On Tyne Post Office® services available

Our Customer Helpline on 03452 66 01 15 will be happy to help you with any queries about product availability or provide you with details of maximum value of transactions. Customers can also shop online at www.postoffice.co.uk

	New branch
Mail	
First & Second Class mail	✓
Stamps, stamp books (1 st class 6 & 12 only, 2 nd class 12 only)	✓
Special stamps (Christmas issue only) & postage labels	✓
Signed For	✓
Special Delivery	✓
Home shopping returns	✓
Inland small, medium & large parcels	✓
Express & contract parcels	✓
British Forces Mail (BFPO)	✓
International letters & postcards (inc. signed for & Airsure)	✓
International parcels up to 2kg & printed papers up to 5kg	✓
Parcelforce Worldwide International parcels	✓
Articles for the blind (inland & international)	✓
Royal Mail redirection service	✓
Local Collect	✓
Drop & Go	✓
Withdrawals, deposits and payments	
Post Office Card Account	✓
All personal and business banking cash withdrawals, deposits, balance enquiries & enveloped cheque deposits (card, barcoded or manual).	✓
Postal orders	✓
Moneygram	✓
Change giving	✓
Bill payments	
Bill payments (card, barcoded or manual)	✓
Key recharging	✓
Driving	
Car tax	✓
Travel	
Pre-order travel money	✓
On demand travel money	Euros/Dollars
Travel insurance referral	✓
On demand travel insurance	x
Passport Check & Send	x
Mobile Top-ups & E vouchers	✓
National Lottery Terminal	✓
Payment by cheque	✓
<p>Products marked x are available at Whickham Post Office, Unit 1, St Marys Green, Whickham, NE16 4DN</p> <p>Opening times: Mon – Fri 09:00 – 17:30 Sat 09:00 – 12:30</p>	

Code of Practice for changes to the Post Office® network

What's a Code of Practice?

The Code of Practice contains guidelines we follow. They tell us how, and when to tell you about changes to your local Post Office services. We've worked with the independent statutory consumer watchdog on these guidelines, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council.

What kind of changes does it include?

Information about when we're planning to move or close one of our branches or outreach services. This also covers information about when a branch has suddenly closed unexpectedly because of something like a flood or fire.

Who do we tell about changes?

You and your representatives (who are often local MPs or local authorities and councils).

How will we tell you what's happening?

If there's a minor change – like changing opening times, then we'll let you know by putting up posters in the Post Office. If the plan is to move a Post Office then we'll put up posters and hand out letters in the branch as well as writing to your representatives. We'll have a press release and, the relevant information will be easy to find on our website.

How long will it take?

We'll let you know about any changes as soon as we possibly can. Sometimes, change is out of our control but we'll try to keep you as up-to-date about what's happening as much as we can. We try to make sure you have 4 weeks' notice before anything happens. If we're going to make big changes, there'll be a 'consultation period' which lasts about 6 weeks. This means that you've got time to let us know how you feel.

It's easy to let us know what you think...

We want to hear what you and your representatives think about change and to make sure it's easy for you to let us know, all of our contact details can be found on all our posters and letters. You can contact us by email, letter or 'phone.

How will you find out about the final plans?

We'll be letting you know in as many ways as possible. There'll be posters put up in or around your local area, letting you know what's going on. We'll also write to local representatives and, the information will be on our website.

If you let us know what you think, we'll make sure you know about our final plans either by writing to you, or having the information easily available in the Post Office or on our website.

What can you do if you think we haven't followed the Code of Practice?

If you don't think we've followed the Code, then please write to us or email us via the contact details included in this letter and let us know why.

To have a look at the full Code of Practice, it's on our website at www.postofficeviews.co.uk