

Customer and Stakeholder Engagement: Epworth

On 30 November 2022 we announced the closure of 114 branches, including our branch at Epworth. The following provides detail of the stakeholder engagement we have undertaken, and feedback received, since our announcement.

Customer and stakeholder contact

On 20th and 23rd January, we wrote to all regular users of this branch. The letters advised customers of the reasons behind our decision and effective date of closure. They also provided customers with details of the nearest alternative HSBC UK branch, alternative ways to continue to access their usual banking services and how to access the closure Impact Assessment.

We wrote to Andrew Percy, Constituency MP, on 30 November 2022 to advise of our decision to close the branch and offered to meet to explain the reasons and how we would be supporting all our customers during this period of change.

At announcement we also wrote to a number of key stakeholders. These included:

- Post Office
- HM Treasury
- Cash Action Group
- CBI
- British Chambers of Commerce
- Which?

On 23 January 2023 our Local Director additionally wrote to the following key local stakeholders to advise of our decision to close:

- Councillor John Briggs, Ceremonial Council Leader
- Councillor Rob Waltham, Council Leader
- Clerk at Town Council
- Joanne Fryatt, Post Office Area Manager
- Stephanie Metcalf, Epworth Business Forum
- Epworth Library
- Age UK, North East Lincolnshire
- Alzheimer's Society
- Citizens Advice
- Community Money Advice Service
- Doncaster MIND
- RNIB
- Trussell Trust
- Aurora Wellbeing Centre

We published an Impact Assessment on our public website. The assessment provides further details on the reasons behind our decision, the information used, the nearest HSBC

Information correct at the time of publication.

UK and Post Office branches, alternative ways to bank and how to contact the bank for additional support. To view these reports just scan the QR code or visit <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder>. Copies are also available in the closing branch.



Posters have been displayed at the branch with information on the nearest HSBC UK branch and cash machine as well as the nearest Post Office counter.

We provided extensive training to our branch teams in order that they could fully support both personal and business customers with accessing alternative ways to bank. Following this training our branch staff have been proactively engaging with customers, particularly those who are reliant on the branch services, to help them look at the alternatives that are available, including the services provided by the Post Office.

We have also been engaging with the nearest Post Office counters to the branch to ensure they know we are closing, are aware of the services they can provide to our customers and to address any queries or concerns they may have in meeting the needs of our customers.

Customer and stakeholder reaction/feedback

- We have written to Andrew Percy, Constituency MP, who along with 2 Local Councillors, asked for a meeting to discuss the closure. A Zoom meeting was held with our Local Director Julie Ashcroft where a good discussion was held around the closure. Andrew Percy asked us to ensure we leave the branch looking in keeping with the area and we confirmed our branch closure team are working with the local council to ensure this happens. They also discussed whether we could support local groups with any donations of furniture from the branch which we are also looking into. Other support for the community was also discussed including the Post Office, community pop-ups and our community tablet programme
- Customers have shown concern about the members of staff in the branch and expressed their gratitude for the service they have received at the branch
- General customer sentiment was disappointment that the branch was being closed. Staff within the branch have been actively supporting these customers and discussing alternative methods of completing transactions
- Calls to vulnerable customers have been well received and they have generally welcomed the opportunity to discuss the branch closure as a follow-up to the letter they received. During these calls we have taken the time to understand our customers' specific circumstances, which has allowed us to provide our customers with information on the services that may be suitable for them

Information correct at the time of publication.

Follow up action taken

- Branch staff have visited the local Post Offices to ensure they are aware of the closure of Epworth branch and to understand the services they can provide to our customers. This has provided the branch team with the confidence to discuss the Post Office offering in detail with customers
- The branch has supported customers who have no access to a compatible device for online banking through our community tablet programme, ensuring they are able to get online and educating them in how to navigate online and mobile banking
- The branch team will be holding Pop Up events once the branch closes. Our branch experts will be on hand to offer important advice on how to reduce the risk of fraud on your account, give guidance and support on the different ways customers can do their banking, including the services available at the Post Office and help with queries about our products and services
- All staff in Epworth branch have received vulnerable customer training, to upskill them in holding in-depth conversations to support our customers in finding alternative ways to bank

Contacting the bank after closure

Following the closure of this Branch, if you have any questions or need advice on how to access our services, you can contact us in the following ways:

- Visit us at <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/waystobank/>
- Contact us on 03457 404 404 (+44 1226 261 010 from outside the UK). Currently open 8am-8pm every day. Here you can:
 - Get help with your day-to-day banking enquiries
 - Talk to us about your closing branch
- Visit any HSBC UK Branch (branch hours can vary so please check our website before you visit at <https://www.hsbc.co.uk/branch-finder>)

Braille, Large Print and Audio copies of this document can be provided upon request.