

14 November 2016

Report of the Director of Strategic Partnerships,
Planning and Streetpride

REMOVAL OF POST OFFICE BOXES FROM COMMUNITIES

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the position in respect of redundant post office boxes located in communities across the city. It confirms that Royal Mail have determined that these boxes are now no longer used and will be removed.
- 1.2 Where such boxes are deemed unsafe, possibly because the post on which they are mounted is badly rusted, the Council can intervene and seek its urgent removal.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note that Royal Mail have indicated that they are in the process of removing all street mounted post office boxes nationally.
- 2.2 To note that the Council have the power to intervene to secure the early removal of boxes where they may be unsafe.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that Board have a clear understanding of the issues surrounding post office boxes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Post mounted boxes, designed to store mail in locations accessible to post office workers in local communities, were installed across the city some 10 or more years ago. Royal Mail used powers available to them to install the boxes without the need for any specific consent or licence from the Council.
- 4.2 These boxes have fallen into disuse and many are now in a poor state presenting a potential risk to highway users and creating a poor impression in some locations.

- 4.3 Officers have written to Royal Mail raising concerns about the condition of the boxes. Royal Mail have responded by stating that the boxes are now not used and that they are in the process of removing all such boxes not only in Derby but across the country. We are attempting to gain more information about the timing of such removals and will seek to ensure that they are removed as quickly as possible.
- 4.4 Where the posts on which boxes are mounted are badly corroded they pose a potential risk to the public. Where such issues are identified we will ensure that these are dealt with urgently. Should Royal Mail fail to remove unsafe boxes quickly we have the power to remove them ourselves and to recharge the costs to Royal Mail.
- 4.5 Where members of the public or others have concerns about the safety of post office boxes they should report them to Streetpride either on-line via the Council's website or by calling 0333 200 6981.

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| OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED |
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5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| Legal officer | n/a |
| Financial officer | n/a |
| Human Resources officer | n/a |
| Estates/Property officer | |
| Service Director(s) | Tim Clegg, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Planning and Streetpride |
| Other(s) | |

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| For more information contact: | David Gartside 01332 641821 david.gartside@derby.gov.uk |
| Background papers: | None |
| List of appendices: | Appendix 1 – Implications |

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 None

Personnel

3.1 None

IT

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Health and Safety

6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

None