

COUNCIL MEETING 15 DECEMBER 2021
AMENDMENT TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION AS SET OUT IN ITEM (8) OF THE
COUNCIL AGENDA

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council Constitution the following amendment was received in the names of County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, A. Cox, J. Williams, D. Grehan, G. Davies, J. Davies, J. Cullwick, K. Morgan, L. Jones, E. Stephens, S. Rees-Owen, M. Weaver, E. Webster, A. Chapman, S. Evans, H. Fychan and E. Griffiths.

Banks should be an essential service in our communities, giving residents convenient access to their finances and allowing them to take care of their affairs. They are often situated in the heart of our town centres, in close proximity to other vital facilities and shops.

The notice that Barclays are intending to close their branch at Victoria Square in Aberdare in March 2022 is the latest (potential) withdrawal of financial services from communities in Rhondda Cynon Taf and, should the plans go ahead, will have a detrimental impact, not just to our residents in accessing facilities, but also to the vibrancy of our town centres. The Council has worked hard to make our town centres attractive and welcoming hubs of the communities they serve, especially after the exceptional difficulties faced by local traders over the past 18 months.

Aberdare has already seen NatWest {Insert:The Co-operative Bank} and HSBC withdraw their services from the town, whilst Treforest, Treorchy, Porth and Mountain Ash are among the other areas to have also seen banks close over recent years.

The assurances provided by Barclays that Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypridd are the closest services will be scant consolation to many, with both journeys taking between 40 and 50 minutes each way.

This Council wishes to record its opposition to the closure of Barclays Bank in Aberdare and resolves to:

- Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Head of Corporate Relations Wales and West and the Chief Executive of Barclays Bank to call for the plans to be reconsidered.
- {Insert: Requests that a joint report from the Chief Executive, the 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer be brought forward to Council addressing all matters relating to consideration of an option of changing our Bankers from Barclays}
- Requests that the Council seeks to ensure that the social benefits of maintaining a local banking presence in our communities forms part of our future relationships with the banking sector.

- {Insert: To note the Welsh Government's announcement to develop and launch a new Community Bank of Wales headquartered in Wales, This Council further calls on Welsh Government to accelerate the establishment and roll out of Banc Cambria which aims to open High Street Branches in towns throughout Wales.}

The motion amended will read:-

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Aberdare has already seen NatWest, The Co-operative Bank and HSBC withdraw their services from the town, whilst Treforest, Treorchy, Porth and Mountain Ash are among the other areas to have also seen banks close over recent years.

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establishment and roll out of Banc Cambria which aims to open High Street Branches in towns throughout Wales.