

Inner NE Area Committee,  
c/o Rory Barke,  
E&NE Area Manager,  
Leeds Media Centre,  
21 Savile Mount,  
Leeds  
LS7 3HZ.

08.06.10

Dear Councillors,

### Leeds City Credit Union

Over the recent months Leeds City Credit Union (LCCU), supported by officers of the Council, has been visiting various Area Committees to seek support for the credit unions 'branches' in neighbourhoods across the City.

One of the committees visited was your own, Inner North East, and the credit union location under discussion at this Committee was the proposed site in the new Chapletown Joint Service Centre.

As you may know the original plans for the Chapletown Joint Service Centre included the provision of a 'full service' credit union branch however, due the financial constraints of LCCU the plans had to be altered earlier this year to remove the provision of a full service unit in favour of a simpler 'information and advice point'.

It was the funding for this smaller scale service that was the subject of discussion at the Inner North East Area Committee in April.

I did not attend this particular Area Committee meeting however it has been reported back to me that the Committee, before making a decision, asked what other options could be considered for providing a credit union service in Chapletown and the area covered by the Committee and it was asked if in fact an alternative site could be found for the credit union, e.g. a shop type location, instead of being in the Joint Service Centre at all.

Due to the financial situation of the credit union that was set out in the papers provided for the Committee the underlying position is that LCCU cannot support the costs of a presence in Chapletown from its own resources at the present time. This is the same whether space is taken in the Joint Service Centre or an alternative site is considered. Indeed an alternative site would almost certainly be a more costly option than the Joint Service Centre as rent and redevelopment costs would be incurred on top of the staffing and other running costs. Such higher costs would still need to be funded by the community and or the Area Committee.

Therefore, in response to the discussions at the April committee meeting my recommendation is that the best option for a credit union presence in the Chapletown area is to proceed with funding our presence in the new Joint Service Centre. Indeed, I



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also recommend this option as it makes sense to me that as a new location the service provision should be established in a modest way and built up as the demand requires rather than carrying the costs of a full service branch right from the beginning as was originally planned into the Joint Service Centre development. A presence in the centre would also form a base for credit union development work in the wider Inner North East community.

I hope that you and the Committee will agree with this recommendation and explanation and LCCU will still very much value any financial support that your Committee will give to establish a service point in the Joint Service Centre. For our part LCCU will then work closely with partners in the local community to establish and develop the service.

Finally, if it would help for me to brief you in person about LCCU and the background to this note then I would be very pleased to meet with you.

Thank you for your consideration and that of the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Smyth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Smyth  
Chief Executive Officer

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