

4 November 2008

Saturday postal deliveries must be maintained

Any decision to scrap Saturday postal deliveries will be met with strong opposition in Keighley and Ilkley, Kris Hopkins, the constituency's Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, has said.

The possibility of Saturday deliveries being ceased has emerged after Richard Hooper, the official charged with conducting a Government review of the postal service, revealed that half of the country's 69 sorting offices were now under threat.

Experts believe that the consequence of this action would be a reduction in the delivery and collection service to home and businesses to just five days a week.

Cllr Hopkins said:

"Last week we discovered that thousands more Post Offices will be placed under threat of closure if the Government decides – as seems increasingly likely - not to extend the Royal Mail's Post Office Account Card contract which gives Post Offices the right to distribute pensions and other benefits.

"And this week we find out that Saturday collections could now go too.

"Coming off the back of the recent loss of four Post Offices in Keighley and Ilkley and the threat of more closures to come, local people are becoming even more concerned at where this Government-led campaign of destruction will end.

"Given that, in the six months to September, the Royal Mail achieved an operating profit of £177 million – the most it has made in at least seven years – any further cutbacks will be scandalous and must be resisted.

"I will be continuing to speak up for the residents of Keighley and Ilkley in opposing these measures which are utterly indefensible."

ENDS