

## NEWS RELEASE

### Cash industry alliance condemns Community Access to Cash Pilots Programme Report

**London, 15 December 2021:** The UK Cash Supply Alliance (CSA), a powerful industry alliance with members across the cash supply chain, has condemned the Community Access to Cash Pilots Programme Report officially published today, declaring its findings to be inadequate.

*“We’re extremely disappointed with the report conclusions which fail to outline a much-needed national solution to guarantee extensive access to cash withdrawal and deposit facilities for the foreseeable future - 10 years as an absolute minimum,” says Ron Delnevo, Director, UK Cash Supply Alliance. “Thousands of communities have already been deprived of their bank branches and ATMs and only seeking to mitigate the impact of future closures does not begin to deal with the problems created over the last decade following the decimation of the UK’s cash infrastructure.”*

The report also fails to address the growing issue of cash acceptance, despite the UK remaining behind countries such as the US where the recently introduced Payment Choice Act of 2021 bill would make it illegal for retailers across the USA to refuse to accept cash for in-person consumer transactions. The report fails to consider enshrining payment choice for all consumers, not just the elderly or vulnerable.

*“This is also a missed opportunity to deal with the major issue of cash acceptance, a growing challenge in many communities,” says Delnevo. “More and more retailers have made Covid the excuse for refusing to accept cash, for blocking their customers right to payment choice. Legislation is needed to enshrine payment choice for consumers, as is happening in the United States with the Payment Choice Act.”*

The CSA is also concerned about the recommendation to allow LINK, an organisation dependent on bank funding, to conduct assessments of the community impact of bank and ATM closures.

*“LINK is primarily funded by the UK’s major banks and the organisation is therefore clearly not best placed to deliver impartial judgement on issues with cash access and what steps need to be taken,” says Delnevo. “We need a truly independent body, with full powers of enforcement, to guarantee every aspect of the long term future of cash. Anything less is a sticking plaster destined to fail cash and the British public.”*

Cash champion, the Cash Supply Alliance (CSA), is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to engage and connect organisations across the cash supply chain with UK government, regulators, trade associations, the retail sector and the public. Its steering group comprises representatives from the Post Office, Cennox, Loomis, Clyde & Co, Shrap, Transaction Network Services and Cash and Card World. For more information about the UK Cash Supply Alliance visit [www.cashsupplyalliance.co.uk](http://www.cashsupplyalliance.co.uk)

ENDS

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **About the CSA**

Focusing on access, availability, authenticity and acceptability, the Cash Supply Alliance (CSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to engage with and connect organisations across the cash supply chain with UK government, regulators, trade associations, the retail sector and the public. Its steering group comprises representatives from the Post Office, Cennox, Loomis, Clyde & Co, Shrap, Transaction Network Services and Cash and Card World. The steering group is chaired by Nigel Constable, a banking automation expert with over 25 years' experience of providing solutions in the field.

##### **For further information:**

**Chris Rowland and Becky Charman, Tala**

[Chris.Rowland@teamtala.com](mailto:Chris.Rowland@teamtala.com) / [becky.charman@teamtala.com](mailto:becky.charman@teamtala.com)

**07983 342567/07957 474568**