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## **New free-to-use ATM goes live in Battle**

LINK, the UK's main ATM cash machine network, has today opened a new free to use ATM in the historic town of Battle. The site in East Sussex is one of five locations across the UK that form part of LINK's new pilot scheme to protect free access to cash for every high street in the UK.

Battle is one of the first locations in the UK where LINK are commissioning a new ATM to be installed. Supported by the banks and building societies, the pilot is part of new funding to support communities across the UK with cash access issues.

While there is an existing free-to-use ATM in the town, this is situated within a retailer that is closed on Sundays. The town receives many visitors at weekends and with many local shops reliant on tourist trade, no access to free cash proved problematic to residents, tourists and businesses.

Working with the local community and MP, the new ATM is in the town's new Costa Coffee. The cash machine will be available 24/7.

In addition to the pilot scheme, LINK recently launched a new website allowing communities to request help directly from LINK for support for free access to cash.

For requests for a free-to-use cash machine, if it meets the criteria which includes distance to nearest free ATM, availability of a Post Office, site security and that there is a suitable location, LINK will fund the new ATM directly. The website can be found at <https://www.link.co.uk/consumers/request-access-to-cash/>.

**LINK, CEO, John Howells:** *"Free cash access remains vital for communities and high streets across the country. Battle is a great example where the community has been able to demonstrate why there is a need, but importantly has helped LINK find a suitable site for hosting the ATM. I'm delighted to be able to support local businesses and the local community in Battle with free cash access 24/7."*

**Huw Merriman, MP for Bexhill and Battle:** *"The loss of cash machines in Battle was bad for local residents and visitors as well as shops and restaurants. Residents, particularly those who are not comfortable using cards or who use cash to help budgeting were particularly hard hit – they are the 'left behind' in the cashless society. High Street shops everywhere face challenges and Battle is no exception. If just a few customers a day can spend a little more because they can get cash, that can be the difference which allows a business to stay open."*

*"I am grateful to LINK and the Costa franchise for their support in getting a cashpoint back on the high street of Battle."*

The ATM is located at Costa Coffee, 11 High St, Battle, TN33 0AE.