



# Retail Forum Working Group Minutes: Future of Retail – Town Centre First / Night Time Economy

**7 March 2024**

## Meeting 10

### CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

**Attendees:** Appendix A

**Minutes:** The minutes from this meeting are to be agreed under Silence Procedure and will be available on [www.enterprise.gov.ie](http://www.enterprise.gov.ie)

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#### Item 1: Welcome

The deputy Chair welcomed attendees and gave apologies on behalf of the Chair.

As this is the first meeting of the year the deputy Chair reflected on why the Group was established and reminded members that the TCF/NTE actions in the Retail Forum Work Programme aligns with an action in the TCF and NTE Plans (2024 Retail Forum's Work Programme was circulated to Working Group members).

The deputy chair encouraged members to consider ways in which the group can proactively support these actions and any ideas can be forwarded to the Retail Forum secretariat.

#### Item 2: Update from the National Town Centre First Office (Action 12)

Comments arising

- Important to have the retail sector involved in the collaborative process on town rejuvenation.
- A member asked that the focus should be on smaller projects with short timeframes.

#### Item 3: Update from the Night-Time Economy Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (D/TCAGSM) (Action 13)

Comments arising:

- A one-stop shop website listing all NTE events would be useful.
- Localised websites are in development by individual towns and a member agreed to share their website as a template.
- Towns teams need access to funding as soon as possible to implement their ideas to maintain momentum.

#### Item 4: Presentation from Didobi Limited on research conducted on the NTE London borough of Bromley and the Town Audits for the Isle of Man (Actions 12 and 13)

Comments arising:

- Attendee asked for guidance on the best way to gather qualitative data, and how to best engage with the retail sector concerning NTE initiatives.
- The increased cost of doing business remains a factor for retailers engaging in NTE initiatives.

- There is a need to consider how the TCF plans can align with NTE plan - one plan covering TCF and NTE in an area.
- Data on the Isle of Man Town Audits might be useful for Irish towns.
- Need to broaden NTE initiatives to focus on other areas of the Night time economy.

**Actions:**

- The Secretariat agreed to contact the Digital Economy Policy and Data Access Unit in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to the Digital Hub Pilot.
- Copy of the presentations to be forwarded to Working Group members.

**Retail Section  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
13 March 2024**

## Appendix A

### Retail Forum Working Group: Future of Retail – Town Centre First / Night Time Economy

#### Attendees

Organisation	
Chambers Ireland	Margaret O'Brien
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair) Deputising	Sandra Mullen
HABIC/ISME/Image Skillnet	Margaret O'Rourke Doherty
LEO Network	Aileen McGrath
Primark	Emma Ormond
Retail Ireland	Samira Nicolo
RGDATA	Clare Walsh
Sligo BID	Finbarr Filan
TU Dublin	Damian O'Reilly
.ie	David Curtin

#### Apologies

Organisation	
Dublin Town	Richard Guiney
IPU	Jim Curran
LGMA	Michael Quinn
UCD Centre for Irish Towns	Philip Crowe

#### Presenters

Organisation	
National TCF Office	Mairead Hunt Donal O'Murchadha
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Deborah Lawlor Deirdre Currivan
Didobi Limited	Matthew Hopkinson