

ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

10th Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday 20 April 2022

Town Centres and Retail

Introduction

1. This paper has been prepared for the Economy and Fair Work Committee to aid Committee members during the second evidence session of the Committee's inquiry into town centres and retail.
2. The remit of the inquiry is to—

Identify the new realities of retail and ecommerce in Scotland and the resulting impact on town centres. What is the subsequent policy response needed to create living and resilient town centres?
3. The Committee launched a call for views on Tuesday 1 February which closed on Wednesday 16 March. Responses can be accessed [here](#).
4. On 24 March, the Scottish Government published its retail strategy "[Getting the Right Change](#)" with the aim of delivering successful, profitable retail businesses, creating new, better jobs and to become an exemplar for inclusive growth.

Evidence Session

5. The main theme of this session is "the view from the ground", the Committee will hear evidence across two panels as follows—
 - David Grove, Lead Officer, Town Centre Development Unit, Fife Council;
 - Jennifer Hunter, Executive Leader, [Culture Counts](#);
 - Roddy MacDonald, Director, [Industrial Communities Alliance Scotland](#);
and
 - Phil Prentice, Chief Officer, [Scotland's Towns Partnership](#).

And then from—

- Danny Cepok, Development Manager, [Love Oor Lang Toun](#);
- [Anthea Coulter](#), Chief Officer and Business Manager; [Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface](#);

- Gemma Cruickshank, Manager, [Embrace Elgin Business Improvement District](#); and
 - Mark Darragh, Vice-Chair, [One Linlithgow Business Improvement District](#).
6. Prior to the evidence session the following written evidence was received from witnesses as part of the Committee's call for views—
- [Written evidence from David Grove, Lead Officer, Town Centre Development Unit, Fife Council](#)
 - [Written evidence from Scotland's Towns Partnership](#)
7. Future evidence sessions will focus on the new realities of Scottish retail, ecommerce activity, and keeping town centres alive.

**Clerk to the Committee
14 April 2022**