

# ECONOMY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE

## 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2022 (Session 6), Wednesday 25 May 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 seventh 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 Committee will hear evidence across two panels as follows—
  - Douglas Cowan, Director of Communities and Place, Highlands and Islands Enterprise;
  - Bryan McGrath, Director of Enterprise and Place, South of Scotland Enterprise; and
  - Derek Shaw, Director of Innovation and Place; Scottish Enterprise.

And then from—

- Bill Lindsay, Service Manager Policy and Place in Planning Services, Fife Council;
- Craig Iles, Service Lead in Planning and Building Standards, South Ayrshire Council; and
- Steve Rogers, Head of Economy and Development, Dumfries and Galloway Council.

6. Prior to the evidence session the following written evidence was received from—
- [Fife Council](#);
  - [Highlands and Islands Enterprise](#); and
  - [South of Scotland Enterprise](#).
7. Scottish Enterprise submitted a [joint written submission](#) with Business Gateway for a previous evidence session focusing on ecommerce.

**Clerk to the Committee  
20 May 2022**