



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

**15 November 2023**

## Meeting 9

### 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 Chair welcomed attendees and apologies noted.

#### Item 2: Update from the Night-Time Economy Unit, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (D/TCAGSM)

##### Comments Arising

- *Further information sought on safety initiatives (D/Justice leading on this). Members interested in collaborating in initiatives.*
- *Safety initiatives in UK including drug safety raised.*
- *National and Social Inclusion Office Report – Safer Night Campaign Workshop in early 2024.*
- *UK cities have triage bus service, supported by volunteers, to encourage people to use this service to reduce pressures on hospitals.*
- *Clarity sought about funding for Night Time Advisors for 2024. (Funding secured for 2024, Service Level Agreement (SLA) currently with the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media).*
- *Change of licensing laws – will there be extra tax and levies on businesses like other European countries.*
- *Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media working with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on a Noise Level Plan to manage noise complaints concerning the Night Time Economy.*
- *Lack of Transport options particularly in rural areas or after midnight (app-based initiative in Germany, partially funded).*
- *Important to have collaboration between Night Time Advisors and the Town Regeneration Officers of the Town Centre First initiative to link activities in towns and/or counties.*
- *Members were reminded that any ideas they may have may be emailed direct to the DTCAGSM NTE Unit.*

#### Item 3: Update from the National Town Centre First Office

##### Comments arising:

- *Will digital business be included in the Town Centre First Plans?*

- *Not all businesses want a digital presence.*
- *Explanation of data on the Digital Hub.*
- *Update sought on whether businesses can apply for the Above the Shop Grant.*
- *Town Centre First Plans – Is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche to be decided.*
- *Integration of current toolkits.*
- *Can towns, not part of pilot phase, prepare plans and is there set criteria.*

#### **Item 4: Work Programme 2023 / 2024**

The Chair reminded members of the Action for the TCF / NTE Working Group in the Retail Forum's Work Programme that had been circulated to Working Group members.

#### **Item 5: AOB**

No comments arising for Michael Martin, Regional Enterprise Plans, Funding and Infrastructure Unit, Department of enterprise, Trade and Employment who was in attendance at the meeting to learn about the work of the NTE, TCF and the Working Group, and was available to answer any questions members might wish to make on the Regional Enterprise plans.

The dates for Working Group meetings in 2024 will be shared with Working Group members in due course.

#### **Actions:**

Copy of the presentations to be forwarded to Working Group members.

Contact details of DTCAGSM NTE official to be shared with Working Group members.

**Retail Section  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
21 November 2023**

## Appendix A

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

#### Attendees

Organisation	
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair)	Mary Cullen
Dublin Town	Richard Guiney
HABIC/ISME/Image Skillnet	Margaret O'Rourke Doherty
.ie	Oonagh McCutheon
IPU	Jim Curran
LGMA	Michael Quinn
Retail Ireland	Samira Nicolo
Sligo BID	Finbarr Filan
UCD Centre Irish Towns	Philip Crowe

#### Apologies

Organisation	
LEO Network	Aileen McGrath
RGDATA	Tara Buckley

#### Presenters

Organisation	
National TCF Office	Donal O'Murchadha
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	Deborah Lawlor Deirdre Currivan
DETE Regional Enterprise Plans, Funding and Infrastructure Unit	Michael Martin