

## CROSS PARTY GROUP ON SMALL SHOPS

Minutes of the meeting held at 12:00pm-2pm on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at The Pierhead Building

### PRESENT:

Janet Finch-Saunders AM (JFS)	Chair
Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM (EH)	Welsh Government
Mark Isherwood AM (MI)	Member
Russell George AM (RG)	Member
Keith Davies AM (KD)	Member
James Lowman (JL)	ACS
Ed Woodall (EW)	ACS
Morgan Brobyn (MB)	Secretary
Adrian Roper (AR)	NRFN
Vyas Sharma (YS)	NRFN
Sam Whiteside (SW)	NRFN
John Parkinson (JP)	NRFN
Rob Holdaway (RH)	NRFN
Matthew Clark (MC)	NRFN
Rhodri Evans (RE1)	FSB Wales
Rachel Evans (RE2)	Countryside Alliance Wales
Steve Willcox (SW)	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Andrew Highway (AH)	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Peter O'Toole (PT)	Retail Merchandising Services
Daniel O'Toole (PT)	Retail Merchandising Services
Peter James (PJ)	Bira
Mike Ash-Edwards (MAE)	Co-Op
Deborah Came (DC)	Camelot Books
Hayley Came (HC)	Camelot Books
Mel Griffin (MG)	Griffin Books
Matthew Phipps (MP)	TLT Solicitors
Craig Lawson (CL)	Suzy Davies AM

### 1. INTRODUCTION

JFS welcomes attendees to the Annual Reception of the Cross Party Group and introduced JL.

### 2. PRESENTATIONS FROM JL and EH

JL presented on the creation of a Welsh business rates system, a strong town centre first policy and carrier bag charges for small retailers.

EH presented on the economic and social contribution small shops make to the Welsh economy. She spoke about Business Rates, emphasizing the importance of balancing needs of the Welsh Government and local authorities. She also acknowledged that Business Rates are one of the most important issues for small retailers.

A roundtable discussion took place; in which EH answered questions from attendees.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

It was **AGREED** that the Group would write to the Economy Minister, with the terms of reference for establishing an Advisory Group on Economic Development for High Streets, to help assist the Welsh Government and local authorities develop positive policy outcomes for small shops.

The meeting was closed by JFS.