

Welsh Cross Party Group – Small Shops: Retail Vision

Monday 11th July 2022, 13:00 – 14:00: Microsoft Teams (Online)

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation	Minutes
Edward Woodall	ACS	EW
Daniel Askew	ACS	DA
John Halliday	Bira	JH
Karen Dear	Craft Bakers Association	KD
Howard Davies	Booksellers Association	HD
Rosina Robson	NHBF	RR
Adrian Roper	NFRN	AR
Sophy Walker	NFRN	SW
Anthony Short	MIA	AS
Tabitha Walker	Act Smart	TW
Stephen Layne	Welsh Government	SL
Vikki Howells	MS for Cynon Valley	VH

1. Welcome and Introductions

VH welcomed attendees, explained the role of the CPG, and highlighted the importance of small shops in communities to deliver essential goods and services.

VH stated that the CPG will host meetings later in the year focussing on the forthcoming retail strategy, business rates and new research on local communities, while laying out the agenda for this meeting which focuses on retail vision strategy and business engagement.

The agenda was **AGREED**.

2. Welsh Government Retail Vision

SL introduced the Welsh Government's retail vision that covered the present state of the retail sector, key challenges that it is facing and areas of action that industry and government can work together to address.

3. Small Shop Panel

VH invited panelists, RR and HD, to introduce themselves and proceeded to ask the panel questions on their reaction to the retail vision.

VH asked how small shops are supporting consumers during a cost-of-living crisis and the panelists stated that some shops are reducing their profit margins so products still remain affordable.

VH asked how cost-of-living crisis has impacted smaller business and the panelists stated that businesses are experiencing supply chain issues that are raising costs of products.

4. Question & Answer Session

VH opened questions up to all attendees on the Welsh Government's retail vision.

It was **AGREED** that collaboration between the Welsh Government and industry is key to achieving delivery of the Welsh Government's retail vision.

5. Close

VH summarised the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.