



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

19 September 2022

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 enterprise.gov.ie

Mairéad Hunt the new National Co-ordinator for the Town Centre First Office attended the meeting.

The group introduced themselves to Mairéad.

Mairéad provided an overview of the programme and a progress update to the Working Group.

The Chair of the Working Group had provided the Actions of the Group to Mairéad in advance so that they could discuss how to support the TCF National Office.

Comments arising:

- 6 Town Regeneration Officers (TROs) had been appointed with 7 due to be appointed in September and 13 more in October.
- A TRO Network will be established. Some TRO will be under different directorates e.g. Economic vs Planning. The Network will be important.
- The Health Check model will need to be scaled up. It is important that consistent data is gathered.
- A whole of Local Authority approach is important. Could there be a portal to share data?
- Important to remember that there are 20 Purple Flag towns too and not to duplicate.
- Important to establish vacancy rate and retail mix.
- Anti-social behaviour needs to be looked at.
- The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and CSO are progressing health checks.
- Need easy wins.
- Needs to be a training budget for TROs and Town Teams.
- Councils and business communities need to come together.

Actions arising:

Mairéad will return to the group to discuss further involvement once the TRO Network has been established.

Appendix A

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

Attendees

Organisation	Name
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) (Chair)	Maedhbh Cronin
DETE	Mary Cullen
Dublin Town	Damon Blake
HABIC/ISME/Image Skillnet	Margaret O'Rourke Doherty
ISME	Finbarr Filan
LGMA	Michael Quinn
Retail Excellence	Duncan Graham
Retail Ireland	Samira Nicolo
RGDATA	Tara Buckley
TU Dublin	Damian O'Reilly
UCD Centre for Irish Towns	Philip Crowe

Presenter

Organisation	Name
National Co-Ordinator, Town Centre First Office	Mairéad Hunt