



Subject:	Request to Present – Retail NI
Date:	9th January, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from Retail NI to present its policy agenda 'Regeneration NI, Creating 21 st Century Town and City Centres' which was launched at their Regeneration Conference NI in November 2018.
1.2	The Committee will be aware that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy has highlighted 'managing the retail offer' as one of eight policy areas to help create a thriving and successful city centre. Given the challenges facing city centres and high streets, the Belfast city centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy also recognised the need to enhance the role, use and experience of the city centre. The focus on retail in the city centre has also been escalated following the Primark fire.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to receive a presentation from Retail NI on its policy agenda at a future meeting.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Retail NI is a regionally based retail and wholesale business organisation, with 1,300 members which provides professional advice and gives a voice to the independent sector at the NI Assembly and Westminster.</p>
3.2	<p>Retail NI launched its policy agenda on 29th November 2018 at its Regeneration NI Conference; hosted by the Chief Executives' Club at Queen's and Retail NI. A copy of the Retail NI policy document is available at Regeneration NI (Retail NI). Retail NI's policy priorities are outlined under six main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating 21st century town centres - Adapting and diversifying - Business rates - Impact of technology - A new deal for our rural community - Town centre infrastructure and public realm
3.3	<p>The importance of the city centre as an economic and social driver for the city and the region is highlighted in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy and the Belfast Region City Deal. This wider strategic context provides an important frame of reference for the Committee to ensure that benefits for the city can be maximised.</p>
3.4	<p>It is worth noting that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) emphasised the importance of having a strong retail offer in the city, and that in conjunction with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Council commissioned FSP Retail and Business experts (FSP) to undertake retail analysis. This work is nearing completion and will be brought to Committee in March 2018 for consideration.</p>
3.5	<p>It is also worth noting that the rates revenue from retail premises alone in the the city centre is in the region of £11m to the Council alone.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report.</p>

3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no implications attached to this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None