

Resolution on Sunday Trading

This Council notes that:

The Government has launched a consultation on whether to devolve the power to set the hours of Sunday trading.

Council further notes that whilst Council would generally welcome the devolution of new powers that these are powers that local government has not asked for.

In addition, Council notes that the government's own economic evidence states that longer Sunday opening will not generate more consumer spending and will lead to fewer retail jobs, so this is not a tool for economic regeneration and that longer Sunday opening is unpopular with the public – the latest survey showed 77% support the current opening arrangements – and will have negative consequences for communities including shop workers, who are already pressured to work longer hours than they wish on Sundays, convenience stores which are often a 'lifeline' to communities will lose trade and the government's evidence shows that some stores will close and Sundays will become more like any other day, making it harder to hold community events.

This Council resolves to:

Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government advising that this Council believes that the Sunday Trading Act has worked well for 20 years and ensures that Sunday remains a special day whilst allowing shops to trade.

Council further resolves to write to all local MPs outlining the Council's position.

Proposer: Cllr Julian Ware-Lane **Seconder:** Cllr Charles Willis