

Report of Chief Officer Economy and Regeneration

Report to the Director of City Development

Date: April 2016

Subject: Sunday Trading - Deputation to Council

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Weetwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report addresses the Deputation received at the 13 January meeting of the Council from USDAW, the retail and distribution workers union, regarding the Government’s proposal to delegate the decision over whether to relax Sunday Trading Laws to Local Authorities. The proposal, which was part of the Enterprise Bill, has since been abandoned by Government, having been defeated in the House of Commons on 9th March 2016.
2. Specific issues raised by the Deputation were:
 - 2.1. USDAW encouraged Leeds City Council to “oppose the deregulation of Sunday Trading and, if handed powers... that you pledge not to extend Sunday trading”
 - 2.2. USDAW felt that “small businesses would be adversely affected” by the proposals and that “retail workers themselves are opposed to such deregulation”
 - 2.3. Furthermore, USDAW believed that there was “no legitimate case for the deregulation of Sunday trading”.
3. It is not anticipated that the Government’s proposals will be resurrected within the next few years, so no significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council on this matter, at the current time. Nevertheless, the comments by USDAW have been duly noted. The proposals had wide ranging impacts, not least on the retail workers and small businesses to which USDAW referred in the deputation.

Recommendations

4. The Director of City Development is requested to note the contents of this report and approve as the response to the deputation.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report responds to the Deputation received at the 13 January 2016 meeting of the Council from USDAW, the retail and distribution workers union, regarding the Government's proposal to delegate the decision over whether to relax Sunday Trading Laws to Local Authorities.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Enterprise Bill proposed that the decision over whether to relax Sunday Trading Laws should be devolved to Local Authorities. This would have given Leeds City Council the ability to extend Sunday Trading hours within the Leeds District.
- 2.2 The Bill was defeated in the House of Commons on 9th March 2016 by 317 votes to 286. It is not thought that Government will resurrect similar plans in the near future.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW) made a formal representation to Full Council on 13th January 2016 which requested that Leeds City Council opposed the devolution of powers and that if powers were devolved, to not extend Sunday trading hours within Leeds. The deputation is attached to this report. The primary reasons for their objection to the Government's proposals were that retail workers were overwhelmingly against the proposals and that the proposals could negatively impact on small businesses.
- 3.2 Opinion was polarised between trade unions and church groups who were against extending Sunday trading hours, and large retail and property businesses that were in favour.
- 3.3 Leeds City Council notes the concerns of USDAW. The proposals had wide ranging impacts, not least on the retail workers and small businesses to which USDAW referred in the deputation.
- 3.4 It is not anticipated that the Government's proposals will be resurrected within the next few years, so no significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council on this matter, at the current time.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The Leader of the Council / Executive Member for Economy and Culture has been consulted on the proposed response to the deputation.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.2 No significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council at this time.

4.3 **Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 No significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council at this time.

4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 No significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council at this time.

4.5 **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 There are no legal implications. The report is not eligible for Call-In.

4.6 **Risk Management**

4.6.1 No significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council at this time.

5 **Conclusions**

5.1 This report addresses the Deputation received at the 13 January meeting of the Council from USDAW, the retail and distribution workers union, regarding the Government's proposal to delegate the decision over whether to relax Sunday Trading Laws to Local Authorities. The proposal, which was part of the Enterprise Bill, has since been abandoned by Government, having been defeated in the House of Commons on 9th March 2016.

5.2 Specific issues raised by the Deputation were:

- USDAW encouraged Leeds City Council to “oppose the deregulation of Sunday Trading and, if handed powers... that you pledge not to extend Sunday trading”
- USDAW felt that “small businesses would be adversely affected” by the proposals and that “retail workers themselves are opposed to such deregulation”
- Furthermore, USDAW believed that there was “no legitimate case for the deregulation of Sunday trading”.

5.3 It is not anticipated that the Government's proposals will be resurrected within the next few years, so no significant decision needs to be taken by Leeds City Council on this matter, at the current time. Nevertheless, the comments by USDAW have been duly noted. The proposals had wide ranging impacts, not least on the retail workers and small businesses to which USDAW referred in the deputation.

6 **Recommendations**

6.1 The Director of City Development is requested to note the contents of this report and approve as the response to the deputation.

7. **Background documents¹**

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website,

7.1 There are no background documents to this report.

unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.