

**PE1497/C**

**Stirling Council's response to the Public Petition PE1497 on Supermarket expansion on local high streets**

The petition appears to be concerned with the influx of small local and express supermarket stores (under 280 sq.m) appearing on the high street and the threat to independent traders and the risk of a supermarket monopoly over food supply. The petitioners want the following measures introduced to the planning process: -

- Take into account cumulative shop floor space that one company operates in an area, in order to make retail impact assessments compulsory for the opening of new stores; and

- Put large chain stores into a separate use class thereby make planning permission for new stores mandatory.

The first measure would require a change to Scottish Planning Policy and the second would require an amendment to the Town and Country Planning Use Classes (Scotland) Order 1997.

Having reviewed the evidence put forward in the petition, it is clear that Stirling's city/town centres have not experienced the same level of small supermarket development as other cities in Scotland and elsewhere. There is not considered to be a proliferation of small supermarkets within Stirling's city/town centres and therefore Stirling Council is not in a position to comment on the merits of the petition, or able to provide any insight into the impacts.