

Title of Report:	The Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 – Request to Designate Towns as “Holiday Resorts”
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 11th June 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Local Economy
Outcome	Implementation of statutory requirements
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Paper

The purpose of this paper is to seek a decision from Council on a request from a large supermarket retailer to designate two towns in Borough as “holiday resorts” in order to avail of longer Sunday opening hours under the Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Council has received correspondence from a large supermarket retailer (Lidl) requesting consideration be given to designating Coleraine and Ballymoney as “holiday resorts” in order to avail of longer Sunday opening hours.
- 2.2 The request letter is attached as Appendix 1. It is understood a similar letter has been sent to all Councils in Northern Ireland with Lidl stores in their district. No consensus has been agreed at a provincial level and it is for each Council to consider its own application on its own merits.
- 2.3 Council have designated Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle as ‘holidays resorts’ under the above legislation.

3.0 Legislative Provisions

- 3.1 Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 allows District Councils, by resolution, to designate any area within its district as a ‘holiday resort’.
- 3.2 In a designated ‘holiday resort’ area, large shops with a shop floor area exceeding 280 m² may open at any time on up to 18 Sundays (excluding Easter Sunday) between 1st March and 30th September each year. The designation exempts these large shops from the restricted Sunday trading hours of 1pm to 6pm on those 18 occasions.
- 3.3 There is no interpretive definition of “holiday resort” in the legislation.
- 3.4 Before making a ‘holiday resort’ designation, Council must first consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed designation and publish notice of any such designation in such manner as it deems appropriate.
- 3.5 In a designated ‘holiday resort’ the occupier or proposed occupier of a large shop must notify the local District Council of the dates of the Sundays involved. The notification does not take effect until 14 days from the date it is given, unless the Council agrees that it should come into effect earlier.
- 3.6 A Council must maintain a register of shops in its district making use of this exemption and make the register available to the public at all reasonable times.
- 3.7 Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle have already been designated as ‘holiday resorts’ by Council.

4.0 Previous Council Decision

- 4.1 Further to ES210608 a similar request to extend Sunday opening hours in Coleraine was brought by an elected member under Any Other Relevant Business. On that occasion the proposal did not progress as it failed to secure a seconder.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee makes a recommendation to Council on whether to progress the procedure to designate Coleraine and Ballymoney as “holiday resorts” under the Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.



David Jackson
Chief Executive
Causeway, Coast and Glens Council
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

9th May 2024

Re: Extended Sunday Opening Hours

Dear David

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of Lidl Northern Ireland, I am writing to express our gratitude for the support and cooperation we received from Causeway, Coast and Glens Council, particularly regarding the extension of Sunday opening hours during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The flexibility provided by extended Sunday opening hours was invaluable in meeting the needs of our customers and communities, especially during that challenging time. We deeply appreciated the opportunity to serve our customers beyond traditional operating hours, enhancing accessibility and convenience for all.

Recognising the positive impact of extended Sunday opening hours in 'seasonal towns', we believe that there is an opportunity to further extend this benefit to communities across Northern Ireland. Expanding the initiative to a wider network of stores would support local economies by promoting increased footfall and economic activity during summer months. We understand that legislation gives Councils the authority to assign as many 'seasonal towns' as they wish, and we feel that the status of the below should be considered further:

- Lidl Ballymoney, Meeting House Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6JN
- Lidl Coleraine, 2 Riverside Park, Coleraine, BT51 3AW

We respectfully request that Causeway, Coast and Glens Council consider our proposal and explore the possibility of expanding the number of stores benefiting from extended Sunday opening hours.

We are committed to working closely to address any concerns and ensure a smooth and successful expansion of this initiative. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and to the potential positive impact it could have on communities across Northern Ireland.



Property Director



Regional Managing Director

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