

If elected, <Candidate> pledges to support local high streets in <constituency>

<Candidate>, who is standing to be the next MP for <Constituency> today announced <his/her> support for the local economy by supporting local <shops/high streets/town centres>. Retail locations serve an important role as community hubs and are particularly important for older and more vulnerable residents.

Unfortunately, the current challenges on the high streets threaten shops and jobs, as well as the overall viability of many local shopping locations. While retailers account for 5% of the economy, they pay 10% of all business taxes and 25% of business rates. This is not sustainable, and <Candidate> will support calls by the British Retail Consortium, and the thousands of businesses it represents, to see this broken tax reformed.

Retail plays a key role in delivering local jobs for local people, as well as supporting the larger UK economy. Retail offers greater flexibility in working hours, supporting huge numbers of people who need to juggle other priorities, such as childcare. Yet the nature of these jobs is changing in response to new technologies, and <candidate> believes that greater opportunities for training should be welcomed. To this end, <candidate> supports greater flexibility for the Apprenticeship Levy, allowing it to be used for all forms of accredited training.

A strong local retail sector is good for the local economy and local community and provides hundreds of jobs for residents. However, for too many retail workers, violent attacks are a regular occurrence with BRC figures showing 115 shopworkers attacked every day across the UK. <Candidate> is therefore pledging to do what they can if elected to better protect the hundreds of shopworkers in <Constituency>.

<Candidate>, said:

“I want to see my <local shops/high streets/town centres> thrive. If elected, I will support our local shops, local jobs and thousands of local shoppers, by pushing for reform of both the broken business rate system, improvements to the Apprenticeship Levy system and securing better protections for retail workers in <constituency>”