

## The economies of working at scale

Today, the government announced a new campaign to save small Grocery Purveying, with the launch of a new initiative, whereby small village cake shops, fashionable food boutiques to corner shops in towns would all work collaboratively, offering even more goods and groceries, a wider range of over the counter services and extended opening hours, aspiring towards full 7 day opening 8am till 8pm.

The new plans, unveiled under the umbrella of Shopping To Paradise (or STPs for short), were welcomed by the leader of the Royal Consortium of Grocery Purveyors. Mrs Professor ██████████ said that such new ways of working would help secure the future of Grocery Purveying, and would help to make it the best job in the UK, perhaps the world, and possibly the entire universe, although such quotes may have been attributed to the previous incumbent, Mrs Professor ██████████.

Critics from an inconsequential social doctors site highlighted the significant shortage of small shopkeepers to provide the hands-on service, and lack of new funding to support such a massive enterprise, but this would be solved by the use of shop assistant assistants, who, after undertaking a minimum of a few weekend's customer service training, would be able to do anything from stacking shelves to completing quarterly digital tax returns.

Furthermore, there would be increased reliance on the phone based National Help to Shop service or NHS111, which would encourage more people to look in their kitchen cupboards and cook their own food, rather than, as they largely advise at the moment, telling customers to go straight down to the corner shop and demand urgent ready meals that would likely be out of stock.

The larger conglomerates, such as Tesco, Sainsbury's and VirginFoods were not available to comment, but it was thought that they were not worried by these moves, as they were too busy enjoying the benefits of working at scale.