

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

News release

30 January 2012

Figures show continued fight against recession on the High Street

Figures released this week show that South Lakeland retailers are still bucking the trend when it comes to empty shop numbers on the high street. Empty shop numbers nationally are 14.5% on most high streets (source Local Data Company, December 2011). Towns across South Lakeland are keeping well below this level as shown by figures collected by South Lakeland District Council who monitor empty shop numbers every quarter in Kendal, Ulverston, Windermere, Bowness and Ambleside.

South Lakeland's biggest high street is in Kendal where 410 shops were surveyed on 12th January. There are currently 48 empty which gives Kendal a vacancy rate of 11.7% compared to just six months ago when there were 53 empty shops so despite the current financial climate the outlook for Kendal remains very positive. The same applies to Ambleside which managed a significant drop in the number of empty shops from 12 to 8.

Other towns monitored include Ambleside (4.8%), Ulverston (7%), Bowness (6.7%) and Windermere (4.2%). Of the towns surveyed in South Lakeland the overall empty shop rate is 6.8%, well below the national average.

Cllr Ian Stewart, portfolio holder for Enterprise and Economy, said: "Across South Lakeland we have more shops per capita than in other town centres because of our tourism culture. That we retain a high occupancy rate shows South Lakeland remains open for business and welcoming to shoppers."

Ends

For more information, please contact the SLDC Communications Team on 01539 797767.