



Belfast City Council

Report to: Health and Environmental Services Committee

Subject: **Bye-Laws Prohibiting the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Places**

Date: 4th August, 2010

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Relevant Background Information

Members will recall that the present alcohol bye-laws regarding the consumption of intoxicating liquor were made by Belfast City Council on 1st February, 2007 and came into operation on 12th September, 2007. Since this date, there have been numerous requests submitted for further streets and other areas to be considered for inclusion in the schedule to the bye laws.

At Health and Environmental Services Committee on 12th April 2010, the Committee agreed to undertake a review of the streets and areas designated currently within the bye-laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in designated streets.

Since this date the following groups and individuals have been consulted:

- Various community groups / general public
- PSNI
- BCC Party Group Leaders
- DPP Members
- BCC Community Safety Team
- BCC Policy Officers Group
- Parks and Leisure (BCC)
- CSP Strategic Tier (Members include Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Department of Justice- Community Safety Unit, Translink, Belfast City Centre Management, NI Fire and Rescue, Youth Justice Agency, NIACRO, Belfast Education and Library Board, PBNI, Victim Support, NI Ambulance Service, NI Alternatives and Belfast Regeneration Office)

Key Issues

Further to this consultation, details of the proposed additional streets to be added to the bye laws are set out in the attached appendix.

Members may wish to note areas of private land to be included within the alcohol bye laws. These areas have been suggested by the PSNI and permission has been sought from the land owners. This will allow the PSNI to enforce the alcohol bye laws in respect of over 18 year olds detected drinking intoxicating liquor on these pieces of designated, private land.

Once the Committee has agreed the additional streets and areas as set out in the appendix, the proposed updated bye laws will be sent to Belfast City Council's legal services section who will submit the draft bye laws to the Department for Social Development (DSD) for preliminary approval. If DSD suggest any amendments, these have to be agreed via the Committee.

Once there is a preliminary agreement with DSD, a report outlining the new draft bye laws, incorporating the additional streets, will then be put before the Committee for adoption and the statutory process for making the bye laws followed, ie:

- A formal Resolution is moved at a full Council meeting;
- A Public Notice is inserted in the press
- After one month from the date of the notice, an application is made to the DSD for confirmation of the bye laws
- The by-laws come into effect.

Resource Implications

A public notice is to be placed in local press regarding the making of the new bye laws. The cost is estimated at £1200 based on previous similar sized notices and will be accommodated within existing revenue estimates.

There will also be costs associated with the purchase and erection of 'alcohol free zone' signs in the areas which are newly designated. Again, these costs have been included within the 2010/2011 revenue estimates.

Recommendations

1. To consider and approve streets and areas listed in the attached appendix as additional areas to be included within the bye laws regarding consumption of intoxicating liquor in designated places.
2. To authorise the preparation of draft bye-laws and the submission of these to the DSD for approval.

Abbreviations

DPP – District Policing Partnership
CSP – Community Safety Partnership
PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland
PBNI – Probation Board for Northern Ireland

Document Attached

Additional areas requested for inclusion within Alcohol Bye-Laws