



Subject:	Review of Entertainments Licensing Legislation by the Department of Environment
Date:	20 th May, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
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Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To advise Members that on 1 st May 2015 Minister Mark H Durkan MLA announced the start of a consultation on a report regarding the review of Entertainments Licensing legislation undertaken by a Working Group set up by the Minister.
1.2	The consultation will run until 26 th June 2015.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	As a key stakeholder, the Committee is requested to agree to set a suitable date and time to receive a briefing on the consultation document and form a response to it accordingly.

3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Department of Environment has responsibility for the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the legislation governing Entertainments Licensing, and local councils are responsible for administering the licensing system.
3.2	The current entertainment licensing scheme has been in place since 1985 and has not been reviewed over the past thirty years. In July 2014 the Minister invited key representatives from the entertainment industry to participate in a Working Group to review and make recommendations on changes to the licensing system.
3.3	Members are reminded that the Committee granted approval for officers to sit on that Working Group which not only consisted of officers from the Council but also the

	<p>Department of the Environment (DOE), Department for Social Development (DSD), Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), PSNI, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Pubs Of Ulster, Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs, Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) and officers from the Northern Ireland Licensing Forum.</p>
3.4	The Council was represented by Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control and Nora Largey, Solicitor to the Licensing Committee.
3.5	The purpose of the review is to put in place a more modern system which does not place an undue burden on businesses and local community groups but also ensures that the public are not put at risk and that entertainment does not cause unreasonable disturbance to people living in the area.
3.6	<p>The aim of the review will be to update both the legislation and the Model Terms and Conditions to remove outdated provisions that no longer have beneficial effect and introduce new ones to deal with innovative issues. A copy of the consultation document may be found at:</p> <p>http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm.</p>
3.7	<p>Key recommendations in the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a single licence covering both indoor and outdoor entertainment at a venue; • An entertainment licence should remain in place unless surrendered by the licence holder or revoked by the council; • To ensure that action can be taken in response to any problems, local residents, the PSNI and NIFRS would be able to request that the council review the licence at any time over the duration of the licence; • When considering a licence application, councils should give due consideration to preventing, or minimising, any crime and disorder issues associated with the entertainment; • To amend the types of entertainment regulated by the Order; • To remove the requirement to advertise in local newspapers and replace this with a notice displayed on the premises and details published on the council website; • To enhance the powers of enforcement for councils to deal with those who fail to comply with the law; • The council would be able to vary the conditions of a licence, suspend the licence or revoke it; and • A new Temporary Licence should be introduced to allow for one-off events by businesses or community groups.

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None.

