



Subject:	Review of Entertainments Licensing Legislation by the Department of Environment
Date:	23 rd June, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435

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	Members are reminded that, at your meeting of 20th May 2015, you were advised that the Minister for the Environment had announced that consultation had commenced on a review of the Entertainments Licensing legislation.
1.2	After discussion, the Committee agreed that: 1. Council officers would draw up a draft response to the consultation questions; 2. Members would email any specific comments to the Head of Building Control for inclusion within the response; and 3. A special meeting of the Licensing Committee, to which all Members of the Council would be invited, would be held to discuss and agree the Council's response before the next Licensing Committee.
1.3	A copy of the draft response is attached as Appendix 1.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the attached response at Appendix 1 and agree it subject to any amendments arising from your discussion.
2.2	Alternative responses have been provided to recommendations, 9, 15 and 19 and in relation to the comments on any future fees structure. Members are asked to decide which response they wish to adopt.
2.3	The Department of the Environment (DOE) will be notified of the draft response prior to the

2.4	<p>submission deadline of 26th June 2015. However, as this is not a delegated matter your recommendation on the consultation document will be placed before the Council on 1st July 2015 for ratification.</p> <p>We have been in contact with the DOE and they have agreed that a draft submission be submitted prior to 26th June and any amendments may be forwarded after Council considers the recommendations of Committee on 1st July.</p>
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3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>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.</p>
3.2	<p>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 review and make recommendations on changes to the licensing system.</p>
3.3	<p>Members are reminded that the Committee granted approval for officers to sit on a Working Group which consisted of officers from the Council, 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 Licensing Forum Northern Ireland.</p>
3.4	<p>The Council was represented by Trevor Martin and Nora Largey.</p>
3.5	<p>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.</p>
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 is attached as Appendix 2.</p>

4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Draft response to consultation • Appendix 2 – DOE report on the Entertainment Licensing Review