



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Sightseeing Bus Tours</b>
<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> February, 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext 2450
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext 2435

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To inform the Committee of the outcome of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting of 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015, which considered a report from the Development Department regarding a recent review into issues associated with the operation of hop-on hop-off bus tours in Belfast.
1.2	A copy of the minutes from the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting is attached at Appendix 1.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the recommendations of the report presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015 on the current issues with sightseeing bus tour operations within the City.
2.2	The Committee should also decide if it now wishes to consider the deferred applications for the variation of a Designating Resolution to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets at two street trading pitches in the City.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Key Issues</b> Members may be aware that the Council has previously discussed a range of issues associated with hop on hop off bus tours for tourists due to concern that the behaviour of some of the bus tours staff could have a negative impact on the city as a welcoming tourism destination.

3.2	The Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2011, considered individual applications from a number of traders to sell bus tour tickets.
3.3	More recently the Licensing Committee agreed to defer the consideration of applications for the variation of the Designating Resolution at two sites to provide for the sale of bus tour tickets. These were deferred pending the outcome of a review which had been commissioned by the Development Department into sightseeing bus tour provisions in the City.
3.4	Research has now been undertaken by the Development Department to understand the operating framework within which the bus companies work; the current sales policy for those wishing to buy tickets for the tours and the view of tourists on the services provided. This was then presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at their meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2015.
3.5	One of the recommendations arising from the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee was in relation to better enforcement and legislative change and they suggested that this be referred to the Licensing Committee for consideration along with a suggestion that the DVA could be invited to attend a future meeting of that Committee.
3.6	Members are reminded that neither Belfast City Council nor the Licensing Committee has any legislative authority or responsibility for the licensing of Bus Tours.
3.7	The City Growth and Regeneration Committee were made aware that there have been requests from two street traders to sell tickets from street trading pitches in the Castle Place/High Street area of the city. The Committee agreed that, from the perspective of managing the bus operations, it would appear logical that the operators use these locations as a base for their ticket sales, given that they are located near the start point for both tours.
3.8	The deferred applications for the variation of the Designating Resolution to provide for the sale of bus tour tickets relate to:
3.9	<b>1. Castle Place opposite Donegall Arcade</b>
3.10	The Current Designation for this site allows the Council to determine what commodity is offered, but explicitly excludes the sale of hot food and bus tour tickets. The proposal received was to vary the Designation to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.
3.11	This was deferred at your meeting of the 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2014. A copy of the minutes from that meeting is attached at Appendix 2.
3.12	<b>2. Castle Junction Kiosk</b>
3.13	The Current Designation for this site allows for the sale of hot and cold non alcoholic beverages, confectionery, ice cream and cold food or similar commodities including the sale of theatre and event tickets. The proposal received was to vary the Designation to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.
3.14	This was deferred at your meeting of the 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2015. A copy of the minutes from that meeting is attached at Appendix 3.
3.15	Members are advised that should you be minded to grant the variation to either or both Designating Resolutions that it would still be necessary for the trader at each location to apply to the Council to trade in the additional commodity of selling bus tour tickets and that those applications, if received, would be considered at a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

3.16	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None.</p>
3.17	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b> There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1 – Minutes of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015</li> <li>• Appendix 2 – Minute of the Licensing Committee meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.</li> <li>• Appendix 3 – Minute of the Licensing Committee Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.</li> </ul>