



Subject:	Licensing of Entertainment Venues/Requests to Operate Beyond 11.00 p.m.
Date:	21st September, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members may recall, at your meeting on 16th March, considering requests from the organisers of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and the Belfast Brewing and Distilling Festival for permission to operate their respective events beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm at Custom House Square.
1.2	After considering those reports, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the number of occasions in which Entertainments Licences for venues such as Custom House Square had been utilised in recent years, including the number of requests for additional hours which had been granted. It was further requested that the report should include information on the licensing arrangements for similar venues in other cities.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the content of the report and comment on the information if required.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	In compiling this report, research of our records was undertaken to identify outdoor and marquee events held in Belfast from 2012 onwards.
3.2	The events were held primarily in venues which are the responsibility of the Parks Service of the City and Neighbourhoods Department, the Department for Communities (formerly DSD) as well as a few other commercially operated venues. A spreadsheet of the current licensed venues is attached at Appendix 1.
3.3	The standard days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under either an Outdoor or Marquee licence are Monday to Sunday from 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.

3.4	Belfast hosts a considerable number of events each year and it's acknowledged that these can bring a range of benefits to the City, including economic gains through the creation of jobs and they support the night time economy and hospitality sector. They benefit tourism as they showcase Belfast and add vibrancy and animation to the City.
3.5	The Committee has considered a range of these events since 2012; the majority of which have been as a result of a request from the event organiser for permission to operate beyond the standard hours of the Entertainments Licence.
3.6	<p>A spreadsheet of events and venues considered by the Committee are attached at Appendix 2. From the spreadsheet, it shows that the number of requests for additional hours can vary but in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the main venues used have been Custom House Square and Falls Park. • generally most venues operate to no later than 12.00 am. • there are from four to seven of these types of events per year. • the majority of the events take place from March to August.
<p><u>Licensing Arrangements in Other Councils</u></p>	
3.7	<p>Members also requested information on the licensing arrangements for similar venues in other councils. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain this information from them all but from our responses it is clear that no other city in Northern Ireland holds events to the extent that Belfast does and any that are held usually don't operate beyond 11.00 pm.</p>
<p>Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council</p>	
3.8	<p>There is no Committee procedure in place for considering additional hours however, all outdoor and marquee applications are forwarded to their Environmental Health Service, Noise Pollution Unit for comment. Permission to operate the event is then granted by the Service.</p>
<p>Derry City and Strabane District Council</p>	
3.9	<p>Each event is discussed at a Safety Advisory Group meeting and respective Event Management and Safety Plans are further discussed. Organisers are required to consult with local residents and place legal notices in newspapers, if the Council consider it necessary. If there are no issues and no objections are received from the public notices the licence and permission will be granted by the Service.</p>
3.10	<p>Outdoor events which are likely to have sizeable crowds attending are licensed to 11.00 pm. These are agreed with resident's groups in advance and reported to the Safety Advisory Group. Noise monitoring is a condition of the permission; however the Council have advised that any of their events rarely go beyond 11.00 pm on any outdoor licence.</p>
3.11	<p>Only contentious applications or requests where one or more objections are received result in the application being considered by Committee.</p>
<p>Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council</p>	
3.12	<p>Very few applications or requests to operate events beyond 11.00 pm for both outdoor or marquee events are received. However, if any requests are contentious, within a built up residential area, or are in a location likely to generate complaints, the application will be considered by Committee.</p>

	<p>Newry and Mourne District Council</p> <p>3.13 Through Committee, they have standardised the hours for all licence types to 1.30 am, weekdays and 12.30 am, Sundays, for all premises including marquee events. The Service will liaise with Environmental Health colleagues if there are likely to be any potential noise issues.</p> <p>Fermanagh and Omagh District Council</p> <p>3.14 Quite a few applications and requests are received but these will only be considered by Committee if they believe it to be contentious or potentially difficult. They do not have any events that operate beyond 11.00 pm.</p> <p>3.15 An Entertainments Licence is generally issued by the Service, which include both outdoor and marquee licences.</p> <p>Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>3.16 With the exception of a Young Farmers Club, the Council advised that they do not receive many applications or requests to operate beyond 11.00 pm.</p> <p>3.17 The Young Farmers Club is located in a non-residential area and therefore generates no noise complaints. However, if an event is to be held close to a residential area then this will not be permitted to operate beyond 11.00 pm.</p> <p>3.18 If objections are received as a result of the application or request to operate beyond 11.00 pm, it is considered by Committee. All other standard applications and requests are granted by the Service.</p> <p>Ards and North Down District Council</p> <p>3.19 Committee consider all applications or requests wishing to operate beyond 11.00 pm. However, these are rare and the Council advised that it could not recall any applications within the last five years which have requested this.</p> <p>Causeway Coast and Glens District Council</p> <p>3.20 All grant applications for marquees are considered at the Council's Environmental Services Committee.</p> <p>3.21 The Council receives a number of requests for marquees to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm and the Service works with them on a case by case basis; taking into consideration issues such as location, nearest noise receptors, the nature and history of the event and if it has previously operated in the area.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet of venues licenced across Belfast.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Spreadsheet of venues and events listed.</p>