



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Proposed Extension of Sunday Trading Hours</b>
<b>Date:</b>	15th March, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext 2435
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext 6446

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	The purpose of this report is to brief the Licensing Committee about a decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at their meeting of 21st October 2016, regarding a proposal to designate the entire Belfast City Council area (or specific parts of the area) as a 'holiday resort'.
<b>1.2</b>	The Building Control Service is responsible for the enforcement of The Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and previous Sunday trading matters have been considered by the Committee.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
<b>3.1</b>	At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 21st October, Members agreed on the recommendation for the Council to consult (by way of a public notice) on designating the entire area of Belfast City Council or specific part(s) of the area as a holiday resort under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.
<b>3.2</b>	The effect of this designation would be to extend the Sunday trading hours for large shops on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1st March and 30th September in any calendar year.  This proposal was made in response to a strong lobby within the city, primarily Belfast

3.3	Chamber of Trade and Commerce, to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort' area to improve the tourism offering in Belfast (particularly on a Sunday morning), to boost the local economy and to support the overall regeneration of the city centre.
3.4	The principle of additional Sunday opening hours for large shops in support of tourism was established under the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and Schedule 2 of the Order deals with the rights of shop workers in respect of Sunday working.
3.5	Any designation as a 'holiday resort' must be done by resolution of the Council. However, before making a designation, the Council must first consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed designation and must publish notice of any such designation in such manner as it deems appropriate.
3.6	To make use of the exemption, the occupier or proposed occupier of a large shop must notify the Council of the dates of the proposed Sundays involved. The notification does not take effect until 14 days from the date it is given, unless the Council agrees it should come into effect earlier.
3.7	Having made the 'holiday resort' designation, the Council's role, in addition to the existing enforcement role performed in respect of Sunday trading, will be to keep a register of the large shops making use of the exemption and make the register available to the public at all reasonable times.
3.8	If this proposal were to proceed, the Council would work with key partners, such as the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Visit Belfast to ensure the effective promotion of the additional hours and to consider the potential impact on city animation as a result of additional visitors to the city.
3.9	A copy of the minutes from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of 21st October is attached.
<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>	
3.10	There are no financial and resource implications attached to this report
<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b>	
3.11	As with any other policy development, any such proposal to designate Belfast as a holiday resort will require formal Equality Screening and all equality requirements will be met. Any Good Relations issues will need to be addressed following the consultation on any such proposal.

4.0	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Minute of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of 21st October