

Councillor McVeigh's Notice of Motion – Tourism Offer in Belfast

“This Council recognises the importance of tourism to our City’s economy. With proper stimulus and support, we have the potential to substantially grow this sector and create many more jobs across the City.

It is recognised that tourism related jobs, in hotels, bars, restaurants, cinemas, shops, tourist attractions and taxis are often the most accessible for the lower skilled and those most removed from the labour market. It is crucial that we do everything that we can to support the growth of this sector.

It is imperative that opening hours for our restaurants, pubs and clubs, particularly within our City centre, are reviewed and modernised. It is very clear that residents and tourists alike are often left with little to do at key times of the evening and weekend and that this is hampering our tourism offer.

This Council calls upon the Minister for Communities and the Assembly to further devolve licensing decisions to councils. Local councils are best placed to make decisions about appropriate opening hours.

In recent months, a number of potential international investors have expressed an interest in developing an Entertainment and Casino complex in Belfast, with a planned investment of £150 million and the creation of in excess of 900 new jobs.

This Council agrees to carry out a public consultation, including with our tourism and hospitality sector, to ascertain whether the citizens of Belfast wish to see the modernisation of our licensing laws and opening hours and the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex within Belfast.”