### Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1. **The Institute of Licensing is the professional body for licensing practitioners in local government, the police, private sector, trade and the legal profession. The Institute was established to provide education and training and to disseminate knowledge in all matters relating to licensing. The Institute operates throughout England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.**

2. **Members are reminded that Belfast is a Corporate Member affiliated to the Northern Ireland Region of the Institute and Mr. James Cunningham, within the Building Control Service, is the Chairman of the Institute of Licensing (Northern Ireland Region) and a Director and Trustee of the Institute.**

3. **This year, the Institute will hold its National Training Event in the Holiday Inn Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon from Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th November. The event will include topics such as:**
- Licensing developments in Northern Ireland
- The Role of Safety Advisory Groups
- The Role of the Licensing Authority, delegations and authorisations
- Conducting Licensing hearings
- Planning and Licensing - where are we now and the Raynsford Review outcomes
- Better regulation and reducing the burden.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee authorises the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Director of Planning and Building Control and the Building Control Manager (or their nominees) to attend the Institute of Licensing National Training Event from 14th to 16th November.

2.2 Members might also wish to consider funding the travel to the conference of Mr. Cunningham, in recognition of his work in attaining the position of chairman of the Northern Ireland Branch. Mr Cunningham's residential fee for the event is paid for by the Institute of Licensing.

2.3 It is also recommended that the Committee agree to authorise the payment of the conference fees, together with the appropriate travelling, subsistence and attendance allowances in connection therewith.

2.4 Should you agree to the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, the Director of Planning and Building Control and the Building Control Manager attending the event, the Committee might wish to consider rescheduling the November Licensing Committee meeting, which is taking place on 14th November and which coincides with the event. An alternative date will be identified in due course.

3.0 **Main Report**

**Key Issues**

3.1 The National Training Event is a great opportunity for Members and officers to meet with licensing professionals from across the UK and keep abreast of changes to licensing in other jurisdictions. The contacts established through previous conferences have been of great benefit. Members may recall Stephen McGowan (Partner with national law firm TLT LLP) attended a meeting of the Licensing Committee in 2015 to provide Members with an overview of the Scottish licensing system and to comment on proposed changes to legislation here.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

3.2 The residential fee for the training event is £697 including VAT per delegate and travelling and subsistence will be approximately £200 per delegate. The fee includes full access to the programme on each day, all meals and overnight accommodation. This figure has already been allowed for in the estimates for the current year.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

3.3 There are no issues associated with this report.
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