



Report No: **135/2010** Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Establishment of Licensing Sub Committee**

Wards Affected: **All Wards**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **20 May 2010**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to Budget: **No** Change to Policy Framework: **No**

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1. What we are trying to achieve and the impact on our customers

- 1.1 To establish a Licensing Sub-Committee to deal with all matters in connection with licensing applications.

2. Recommendation(s) for decision

- 2.1 That a sub-committee of the Licensing Committee be established to comprise three Members of the Licensing Committee;
- 2.2 that the terms of reference of the sub-committee be to consider and determine all matters in connection with licensing applications (including those set out in the Statement of Licensing Policy and Gambling Act Policy/Statement of Principles);
- 2.3 that the Licensing Sub-Committee be exempted from the rules of committee proportionality as defined in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supporting regulations; and
- 2.4 that the Democratic Services Manager be authorised to empanel Members from the Licensing Committee to serve on the Licensing Sub-Committee as and when required.

3. Key points and reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 The establishment of a Licensing Sub-Committee at this time will enable the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 to be implemented as expediently as possible and will comply with prescribed timescales.

For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to the supporting information attached.

Richard Thorpe
Executive Head of Governance

Supporting information to Report 135/2010

A1. Introduction and history

- A1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 (section 6(1)) states that “each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee consisting of at least ten but not more than fifteen members of the authority”. At the meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2004 (minute 425/12/04 refers), Members considered Report Env/61/04 setting out the recommendations of Licensing Working Party in relation to the new licensing arrangements. The Council agreed to establish a committee comprising 15 Members to carry out the licensing functions of the Council.
- A1.2 The Act also provides for the establishment of one or more sub-committees (Section 9(1)), consisting of 3 members of the Committee. The committee may arrange to delegate any of its functions to the sub-committees, and the sub-committees may in turn delegate the functions concerned to an officer of the licensing authority (subject to certain exemptions).
- A1.3 In order to expedite the Licensing Authority’s functions, it would be preferable for all new and existing licensing functions of the Council to be delegated to sub-committees. The Licensing Committee would therefore in practice only meet twice a year to consider:
- Regular reports on decisions made by officers;
 - Any information it wishes to pass to the Development Control Committee;
 - Reports on the needs of the local tourist economy; and
 - Reports on the local employment situation
 - Reports on changes to licensing policy e.g. Licensing, Gambling, Taxi etc.
- A1.4 The sub-committee would therefore deal with the majority of licensing matters. Given the frequency of meetings of the sub-committee, it may not always be possible to secure membership which is politically balanced. It is proposed that the composition of the sub-committee should not be governed by political balance. Any decision to waive the political balance will require a resolution of the Licensing Committee with no Member voting against.

A2. Risk assessment of preferred option

A2.1 Outline of significant key risks

- A2.1.1 The legislation in respect of applications and notices under the Licensing Act 2003 requires a very short timescale in which some matters must be decided. Failure to appoint a Licensing Sub-Committee will cause difficulties in meeting such timescales and will require the full Committee or the Council to make required decisions with associated resource implications.

A3. Options

- A3.1 It is the intention that the sub-committee would be appointed by the Licensing Committee. The sub-committee does not have to have a fixed membership,

providing all three of the Members are drawn from the parent Licensing Committee. The Council could determine to appoint the sub-committees.

A4. Summary of resource implications

A4.1 Costs associated with the operation of the sub-committee will be met from existing budgets.

A5. What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?

A5.1 There are no equalities or environmental sustainability implications, however one of the Licensing Objectives is the 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder', so the work should have a positive impact on reducing this.

A6. Consultation and Customer Focus

A6.1 The legislation associated with licensing and gambling requires stipulated procedures to be followed, including the right to personal attendance and representation for the parties to a contentious matter. A Sub-Committee facilitates the necessary and required discussion of the issues more favourably than the full committee.

A7. Are there any implications for other Business Units?

A7.1 There are no significant implications for other business units.

Appendices

None

Documents available in members' rooms

None

Background Papers:

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

Licensing Act 2003

Gambling Act Policy/Statement of Principles