

<b>Report on</b>	Liquor Licensing Laws in Northern Ireland Consultation Document
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	William Wilkinson

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider draft response to The Department Of Communities (DfC) consultation on <i>"The views of current liquor licensing laws in Northern Ireland"</i> .
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The current legislation which controls the sale of alcoholic drinks is "The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996".
2.2	<p>The aim of the current liquor licensing legislation has been developed in order to maintain a balance between the controls which are necessary for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The protection of public health and the preservation of public order</li> <li>• The demand for individual freedom of choice</li> <li>• The opportunity for local businesses to continue to provide a high level of service to their customers.</li> </ul>
2.3	The Council's role in reference to dealing with liquor licenses is commenting on occasional liquor licences and transfers of liquor licences etc. in response to enquiries that the Council receives as a statutory consultee.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	On 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2019, Council received a letter of consultation from The Department of Communities (DfP) (Appendix 1), with a copy of the <i>Liquor Licensing Laws in Northern Ireland Consultation Document</i> (Appendix 2).
3.2	The last general review of Northern Ireland's liquor licensing laws took place in 2012 resulting in the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill 2016. This Bill included measures aimed at contributing towards a reduction in alcohol related harm and making the licensed trade more sustainable and attractive to tourists. The Bill was making its way through the Assembly's legislative process and when the Assembly collapsed in January 2017, it could no longer be progressed.

3.3	This consultation seeks to determine public opinion on current licensing laws and views on changes which could be made in the future to ensure a more flexible and modern licensing framework is in place to respond to the changing expectations and lifestyles within Northern Ireland.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: N/A
	Human: N/A
	Risk Management: N/A
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	That Members agree the content of the draft response to be forwarded to the Department for Communities (DfC).
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Letter from The Department of Communities (DfC).
6.2	Appendix 2 – Liquor Licensing Laws in Northern Ireland Consultation Document including draft response.