



<b>Subject:</b>	Pavement Café Licensing
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2024
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	James Cunningham, Senior Licensing Officer, ext. 3375

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The Committee, at your meeting of 17 January 2024, agreed that the Department of Infrastructure – Roads be invited to a future meeting to discuss its forthcoming guidance in respect of Pavement Cafés.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the update from DfI Roads on their Pavement Cafes Guidance.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will recall that you had invited representatives from the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac), Guide Dogs NI and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) NI to your meeting in January.

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p>	<p>Both Imtac and Guide Dogs NI had a variety of concerns over matters such as how Pavement Cafes would affect footway widths, the approach to tactile paving and how pavement cafes will be enclosed.</p> <p>At your meeting it was discussed that DfI Roads was currently engaging with Councils and representatives of disability groups on a Northern Ireland wide guidance document to assist DfI staff, Councils and stakeholders in assessing pavement café licence applications in relation to highway considerations.</p> <p>Council officers recently attended a consultation meeting convened by DfI Roads concerning their draft guidance and it is the intention that any finalised technical guidance document produced by DfI will be reflected in the Council’s technical guidance.</p> <p>At your meeting last month, the Committee agreed that DfI Roads be invited to a future meeting to discuss its forthcoming guidance in respect of Pavement Cafés and a representative from the Department is available to provide an update for Members.</p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>In June 2020, Belfast City Council introduced a temporary process for considering pavement café applications to assist the hospitality sector during the recovery period following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. This temporary licensing scheme was subject to an equality screening exercise prior to its introduction and the screening process was reviewed again in 2021. In September 2023, Council agreed that the temporary scheme would expire on 31 December 2023 and a permanent scheme was to be introduced.</p> <p>Following this agreement and prior to the public consultation, a further equality screening process and rural needs assessment were undertaken for the transition to the permanent scheme and associated guidance. These draft documents were consulted on as part of the public consultation process, and issues raised through both the public consultation and targeted engagement sessions in the last quarter of 2023 and the ongoing further consultation process are being explored and will continue to be factored into the review of the scheme, guidance, and draft screening documents as appropriate.</p>