



Subject:	Final Decision on Application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for Players, 22 - 23 Shaftesbury Square
Date:	20 August 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Laura Hillis, Principal Building Control Surveyor, Ext: 2469

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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**Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.**

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

**If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?**

**After Committee Decision**

**After Council Decision**

**Sometime in the future**

**Never**

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### Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report		
1.1	To reconsider and make a final decision on an application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit following the Committee’s previous minded to refuse decision.		
2.0	Recommendations		
2.1	The Committee is required to decide, after hearing from the applicant / the applicant’s representatives, to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant the application for an Amusement Permit, or</li><li>• Refuse the application for the grant of an Amusement Permit.</li></ul>		
2.2	If, after hearing the applicant, you refuse the application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit or decide to grant the application subject to discretionary conditions, the applicant may, within 21 days from the date on which notice of the decision is served on him, appeal to the county court.		
2.3	Should Members decide to grant the Provisional Amusement Permit, the Committee is requested to consider delegating authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the City Solicitor to issue the permit once all necessary technical requirements relating to health, safety, welfare and amenity have been completed to the satisfaction of the Building Control Service.		
3.0	Main Report – Key Issues		
3.1	Members are reminded that at your meeting on 18 June 2025, the Committee considered an an application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (the Order).		
3.2	<b>Premises and Location</b> Players Amusements 22 and to the rear of 23 Shaftesbury Square Belfast, BT2 7DB	<b>Ref. No.</b> WK/2020/02428	<b>Applicant</b> Leanne McGivern Play SS Limited 22 Shaftesbury Square Belfast, BT2 7DB
3.3	An existing amusement arcade, Players, on the ground floor of 22 Shaftesbury Square has been operated by the applicant company since 2018. The applicant now wishes to extend this existing amusement arcade into the rear ground floor of the neighbouring unit at 23 Shaftesbury Square, which has been vacant for some years.		
3.4	As there is no mechanism within the Order to allow for a variation of an existing Amusement Permit to cater for the extension of an existing premises, an application must be made for the Grant or Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit for the proposed extended amusement arcade.		
3.5	After consideration of the application, the Committee in its capacity as Licensing Authority agreed that it was minded to refuse the application, as not complying with the Council’s Amusement Permit Policy criteria on the suitability of a location, on the grounds of cumulative build-up of amusement arcades and increase in the number of gaming machines in a particular location, impacting on the character and amenity of the area.		

3.6	The relevant extract of minutes and the Report from the 18 June 2025 Licensing Committee is attached as Appendix 1.
3.7	When minded to refuse an application for the Grant or Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit, or when minded to grant a Permit subject to any discretionary conditions, the Committee is required to advise the applicant of its intention to do so and must afford the applicant the opportunity to make representations at a specified Licensing Committee meeting on the matter before making a final determination on the application.
3.8	The applicant has been informed of the Committee's minded to refuse decision and has confirmed she will be in attendance at your meeting together with her representatives to address the Committee and to answer any questions Members may have about the application.
3.9	The applicant has provided further written submissions in support of the application, which are attached as Appendix 2.
3.10	Dr Tony Quinn, Braniff Associates, a Planning Consultant who has advised the Council on the formulation of the Amusement Permit Policy, will be in attendance at your meeting to speak to the Committee, if Members so wish, on the purpose and application of the Policy.
3.11	A copy of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy is attached as Appendix 3.
4.0	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None. Administration of Amusement Permit applications is included in current budgetary estimates.</p>
5.0	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 1 – Extract of minutes and Report from 18 June 2025 Licensing Committee meeting</li> <li>• Appendix 2 – Statement of da architects Ltd in support of application.</li> <li>• Appendix 3 – Statement of Leanne McGivern in support of application (contains restricted information)</li> <li>• Appendix 4 – Amusement Permit Policy</li> </ul>