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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

11th September, 2025

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Wednesday, 17th September, 2025.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALSH

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Non-Delegated Matters

- (a) Notices of Motion - Annual Update (Pages 1 - 6)

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Subject:	Notices of Motion – Annual Update
Date:	17 th September 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Christina Bateson, Business Research and Development Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report provides an annual update on the Notices of Motion that the Licensing Committee is responsible for, in line with the agreement of the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee that all standing committees receive regular updates.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance that Licensing Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agrees to the closure of 1 Issue Raised in Advance, number 373 as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.4 below.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>At the SP&R Committee meeting on 25th October 2019, members agreed “<i>that this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Date received</i> <i>2. Notice of motion title</i> <i>3. Submitted by which Councillor</i> <i>4. Council meeting date</i> <i>5. Committee motion is referred to</i> <i>6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated</i> <i>7. Month it will be reported back to committee</i> <i>8. Other action to be taken.”</i>
3.2	<p>Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and reporting to Committees commenced in March 2021. Licensing Committee is provided with an annual report containing an overview of the actions taken and the progress of each motion that the committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p>At the SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, members approved the arrangement for the future management of motions, which included recommendations that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1 – Notice of Motion contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. Category 2 - Notice of Motion has become Council policy or absorbed into a strategic programme of work.

	<p>These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete but rather they are more strategic in nature and require changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process.</p>
3.4	<p>There are presently 4 Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which the Licensing Committee is responsible for. Members are asked to approve the recommendation to close 1 motion (detailed below) and note status updates for the other 3 motions which remain open. Additional information is included at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airbnb Accommodation (ID = 373) <p>This motion called on Council to send a letter to the NI Executive asking it to consider putting in place an appropriate regime for the management of short-term lets in Northern Ireland. Correspondence was sent on two separate occasions to DfE and TNI highlighting the concerns of the committee and the need for legislation. TNI have undertaken a review of the certification of visitor accommodation and will examine options for future regulation of visitor accommodation. Any changes which are considered following the review will require new or amended legislation which will take time. It is recommended that this Notice of Motion is now closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications attached to this report. Finance and resource implications are considered by Committee when taking decisions on the specific Notices of Motion and Issues Raised by Members.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – Licensing Committee</p>

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Licensing Committee Notice of Motions

Notices of Motion and Issued Raised in Advance that remain OPEN

ID	Date	Notice of Motion	Proposed By	Referral Route	Lead Officer	Latest Status Update
265	23/08/2022	Drink Spike Testing Kits in Licensed Premises	Cllr Murray	Notice of Motion - referred to Licensing Committee	Kate Bentley	Following the activity in relation to this NoM over the previous year (eg the workshops, the distribution of drink testing kits and the awareness raising campaigns including the development of an information factsheet on drink spiking resources for licensees and venues); the Director of Planning and Building Control will consider the future approach to this NoM in line with other related NoMs and council activity in this area.
373	20/03/2024	Airbnb Accommodation	Cllr McKeown	Issue Raised in Advance (Licensing)	Kate Bentley	<p><u>Recommended to Close (Category 1)</u></p> <p>Since last year's NoM update report, further correspondence was sent to both DfE and Tourism NI to reiterate the need for legislation and highlight the impact and concerns raised by the Committee, and request that the Council was involved in the review that had been outlined in the correspondence. DfE and TNI responded to the Committee, and these were shared with Members at the November meeting. Both responses made reference to engagement with Council through the Development Plan Working Group scheduled to take place in December 2024 and this meeting was attended by the Acting Planning Manager (Plans and Policy).</p> <p>Tourism NI have undertaken a review of the role of the certification of visitor accommodation. TNI are continuing to review the future regulation and classification of the visitor accommodation sector as noted with the TNI 25-26 Operating Plan, including consulting on certification categories and a pilot of the new visitor experience grading scheme. Any changes which are considered following the review will require new or amended primary legislation which will take time.</p>
426	22/01/2025	"Know your rights" information campaign for HMOs	Cllr Conor McKay	Issue Raised in Advance (Licensing)	Eunan McConville	The Director of Communications, Marketing and External Affairs is reviewing the information currently available to students on the external website; this will be updated where appropriate. Further meetings are planned with Cllr McKay to plan for a proactive campaign targeting the student population at the end of 2025 (November to January 26) as they seek to find accommodation for the 26/27 academic year.
442	25/03/2025	Harm Reduction Campaign	Cllr Brian Smyth	Notice of Motion - referred to	Kate Bentley	This will be considered in the context of entertainment licensing obligations and the requirement to have Event Management Plans for

				Licensing Committee		larger events which are assessed on a multi-agency basis including health partners and PSNI.
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