

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 16th September, 2026

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor T. Brooks (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Anglin, Bradley, R. Brooks,
M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, D. Douglas,
Ferguson, Kelly, McCann, McCallin,
McDowell, McKay, McKeown
and Smyth.

In attendance: Mrs. K. Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. H. Morrissey, City Protection Manager;
Mr. K. McDonnell, Solicitor (Regulatory and Planning); and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Bell and McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the Special meeting of 22nd July, 2026, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Delegated Matters

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted the licence applications which had, since its last meeting, been issued under the Scheme of Delegation.

Application for the variation of an Entertainments Licence - Hilton Hotel Belfast

The Director of Planning and Building Control advised the Committee that an application had been received from Pandox Hilton Ltd, for the variation of its 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence based on the Council's standard conditions, to provide music,

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singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind for the Hilton Hotel at 4 Lanyon Place.

The Members were advised that the days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the current Entertainments Licence were:

- Monday – Saturday 11:30am to 1.00am the following morning
- Sunday 12:30pm to 1.00am the following morning.

She outlined that the variation applied for, was to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided to 3.00am the following morning, Monday to Saturday. The applicant had stated that the request was to accommodate requests from larger groups of guests who would be staying in the hotel and to facilitate the arrival of non-hotel customers and increased visitor accommodation capacity, in line with their business strategy. The areas of the hotel licenced for entertainment were the bar and restaurant on the ground floor and the ballroom, foyer and Lisburn Suite on the first floor.

The Committee was advised that public notice had been placed in the newspaper and no written representations had been received.

The PSNI and the NI Fire and Rescue Service had both been consulted in respect of the application and had confirmed that they had no objections.

The Members were advised that no noise complaints had been received by the Service in the past 12 months.

The Committee approved the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence, to vary the hours during which entertainment may be provided as requested, to 3.00am the following morning, Monday to Saturday subject to any special conditions considered necessary by officers.

Non-Delegated Matters

Notices of Motion Annual Update

The Director of Planning and Building Control presented an update on the Notices of Motion for which the Committee was responsible, in line with the agreement of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that all standing committees would receive regular updates.

At the request of a Member, the Committee agreed that the motion relating to drink spike testing kits in licensed premises would remain open.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the closure of the "Know Your Rights" motion, given that a campaign for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) had been launched, providing ongoing guidance for tenants and awareness campaigns targeted at students.

Noted.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the reports associated with the following eight items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting during discussion of the following item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Members were advised that content of ‘restricted’ reports and any discussion which takes place during closed session must be treated as ‘confidential information’ and no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Licences issued under Delegated Authority

The City Protection Manager provided the Committee with an update on the HMO register and advised that a further update would be provided in the coming months.

The Committee noted the update and the licences which had, since its last meeting, been issued under the Scheme of Delegation.

Chairperson