



Belfast City Council

Report to	Licensing Committee
Subject:	Consultation on Proposals to Repeal the Pedlars Acts and Amend Street Trading Legislation
Date:	20 March 2013
Reporting Officer:	Mr T Martin, Head of Building Control, ext 2450
Contact Officer:	Mrs P Scarborough, Democratic Services Section, ext 6003

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the Licensing Committee meeting on 23 January 2013, Members considered a draft response which had been prepared in connection with a joint consultation exercise which had been undertaken by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department for Social Development in relation to an amendment to the National Street Trading Legislation for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the repeal of the Pedlars Act.

2	Key Issues
2.1	During discussion at the meeting, several Members highlighted the problems which had existed within the City prior to the introduction of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. The point was made that the Act had provided the Council with robust powers to regulate street trading and that, should the proposals set out within the review be implemented, it would be a retrograde move and create significant difficulties in terms of the future management of street trading in Belfast.
2.2	Accordingly, the Committee had agreed that the foregoing comments be submitted to the Department for Social Development as the Council's response to the consultation document. The Committee had agreed also that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Social Development advising of the Council's concerns regarding the proposals contained within the review and to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association seeking its full endorsement of the Council's response.
2.3	A response has been received from Minister McCausland's Private Secretary (attached as Appendix 1) advising that the Minister was aware of the serious

	problems associated with illegal street trading prior to the current licensing regime introduced by the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, and noting the concerns of the Committee that the proposed deregulation of pedlar trading to ensure compliance with the European Union Service's Directive would again lead to over-proliferation of street trading in Belfast. The Minister had provided an assurance that he would give careful consideration to the Council's response to the consultation before deciding the way forward.
2.4	A response had been received also from the Head of Policy in the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (attached as Appendix 2) thanking the Committee and the Licensing staff in the Council for their proactive approach to working in partnership with NILGA on this matter.

3	Resource Implications
	None

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to note the responses received from the Minister for Social Development and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

6	Decision Tracking
	Head of Building Control to progress any further decisions on this issue.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: response from the Minister for Social Development Appendix 2: response from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association