

Extract of Minutes of Meeting of 22nd January, 2014

Review of Procedures Governing the Licensing Committee

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th November, it had agreed at the request of a Member that a report be submitted to its meeting in January on the feasibility of amending the procedures governing the operation of the Committee to allow for both applicants and objectors to be present whilst representations were being made in relation to licensing applications.

The Head of Building Control reported that the Licensing Committee had, since 2007, operated under the delegated authority of the Council. He explained that there had, since that time, been only a limited number of occasions on which the decisions taken by the Licensing Committee had elicited criticism and, therefore, it was the view of the Town Solicitor that it should continue to operate in its current format. However, he had advocated the development of an appropriate protocol in order to offer guidance around the operation of the Committee and strengthen the decision-making process. Accordingly, the Head of Building Control submitted for the Committee's consideration a draft protocol which had been formulated by the Town Solicitor in consultation with Senior Counsel. He provided an overview of the document, which sought to address four main areas, namely, the role of the Chairman, the making of representations, integrity and transparency and the provision of legal advice.

After discussion, during which the Head of Building Control undertook to incorporate a suggested amendment into that part of the document relating to the making of representations, the Committee endorsed the need for the protocol, as outlined. The Committee agreed that the consultation document be referred to the Political Parties on the Council for consideration and noted that any comments would be incorporated into a revised document for submission to a future meeting.