

Appendix 2 – Draft consultation document, proposed questionnaire and contacts.

Give us your views

On-line survey

The extension of opening hours to pubs and clubs; and an entertainment and casino complex in Belfast

Closes 5 March 2018

Opened 11 December 2017 **(Suggested Dates)**

Contact

Building Control Service

028 9027650

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Overview

The Council is carrying out a public consultation, including with our tourism and hospitality sector, to find out whether the citizens of Belfast wish to see our licensing laws modernised, and if they support the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex in Belfast.

Your feedback will help us understand people's views and help us decide if we should be supporting change in relation to these two issues.

We are consulting/engaging on:

modernising licensing laws – to find out if people want licensing hours extended so that pubs and clubs can remain open for longer and to seek views on whether decisions relating to opening hours of pubs and clubs should be devolved to the Council, allowing the Council to decide licensing hours for Belfast rather than having them set by the Assembly on a regional basis.

the development of an entertainment and casino complex – to seek the public's views on whether the development of an entertainment complex, anchored by a casino, would be beneficial to Belfast in terms of growing tourism and boosting the economy.

Why are we consulting

Background

Belfast is now positioning itself as a place proud and confident and with its doors to the world. Promoting the vibrancy of the City by widening the forms of social and leisure activities on offer to those who visit, work and live here links to the key priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda of creating jobs and investment and helping to develop a great city and neighbourhood living experience.

These issues were raised within a Notice of Motion approved by the Council which called upon the Council to do all it can to support the growth of the tourism sector as a means of stimulating the local economy and also as a means of creating a wide range of tourism related jobs; which may particularly be accessible for those most removed from the labour market.

The Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 makes clear that the current licensing laws and opening hours leave the City at a competitive disadvantage as a tourism destination. The Strategy suggests that the matter of opening hours needs to be addressed if Belfast is to achieve its full tourism potential. This position is echoed in the Notice of Motion which calls on the Assembly to devolve licensing powers to the Council as the most appropriate forum to decide on licensing hours for the City.

For a City that has already attracted large-scale events such as the World Police and Fire Games, All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil and MTV European Music Awards, and which aspires to be the European City of Culture, providing the Council with the power to set its own licensing hours would bring important flexibility to help cater for these international events.

In addition there has been interest shown by international investors in developing an entertainments and casino complex in Belfast. Such a complex would bring investment in the region of £150 million potentially leading to the creation of around 900 jobs.

What does the current law state?.....

Licensing hours -The current regulatory framework governing licensing hours for the sale of alcohol is provided for in the Licensing (NI) Order 1996. This legislation falls under the responsibility of the Assembly and Belfast City Council has no powers to extend or vary the licensing hours for pubs, clubs and dance venues within its area.

At present licensed premises can serve alcohol until 1.00am at the latest. It has been suggested that these licensing hours are outdated and are not aligned with the visitor expectation of a vibrant and modern tourist destination. There has been general acceptance at both local and central government levels in recent years that these hours could be liberalised. This was recognised in the most recent draft licensing bill which has not yet progressed due to the suspension of the Assembly.

Casinos - Under the current legislation, Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985, casinos are not permitted in Northern Ireland. This legislation falls under the responsibility of the Assembly.

What is an entertainment and casino complex?.....

An entertainment and casino complex would contain a major casino, along with a combination of entertainment and leisure facilities and possibly a hotel. This would be similar, if probably on a slightly smaller scale, to what has become referred to as 'an integrated resort casino' – a term that first appeared in 2010 when used to describe the Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa in Singapore. Although, the basic theory behind them goes back at least to the early 1990s with landmark developments like the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, combining a major casino with hotels and other leisure and entertainment facilities, from sports, to shopping, to conference facilities, night-life, and even theme parks. Such resorts have a broad appeal to gamers and non-gamers, locals and foreign tourists and given their sheer scale have huge tax revenue and job creation potential.

What happens next?

This public engagement is only to collect views. Once closed the Council will analyse the results and feedback. A summary of this consultation will be made available on the Council's website in due course.

The Council will produce a composite report to be brought to the relevant Council committees (Budget and Transformation Panel, City Growth and Regeneration and Licensing Committee) for approval to submit the findings with a corporate recommendation to the Department for Communities.

It is the role of the NI Assembly to decide on any changes to the law governing both casinos and licensing hours. These are dealt with on a regional basis and fall under the responsibility of the Department for Communities. Any proposed changes to licensing or gaming laws will not be made before a full public consultation and associated equality impact assessment is carried out and the matter has been considered by the Assembly.

Related

Legislation - the existing legal framework for gambling, liquor licensing and entertainments licensing

Copy of Notice of Motion

Committee minute providing approval to consult

Draft Questions

A) About you

- 1 Please tell us your **home** postcode (So we can tell which Council areas respondents live in)
- 2 Which of the following best describes you as a respondent?
 - Member of the public
 - Employee in the Tourism and Hospitality Trade
 - Manager in the Tourism and Hospitality Trade
 - Business Representative/Trade Body
 - Faith-based representative
 - Owner/manager of a business in Belfast
 - Other (please specify) _____

B) About Licensing Laws – opening hours for pubs and clubs

- 1) In your opinion do current licensing hours (opening hours of pubs and clubs) adequately meet the needs of residents and visitors to Belfast?

Yes No Don't know

If 'yes' or 'no' please tell us why _____

- 2) In your opinion would longer opening hours for pubs and clubs:

Have an overall positive impact on Belfast?

Have an overall negative impact on Belfast?

Please tell us why _____

- 3) Do you think Belfast would be more attractive for tourists and residents as a leisure destination if it had longer opening hours for pubs and clubs?

Yes No Don't know

4) Do you think pubs and clubs in Belfast should have longer opening hours?

Yes No Don't know

5) If opening hours for pubs and clubs in Belfast were extended do you think this should be:

in Belfast city centre only? or in all of Belfast?

6) Would you support Belfast City Council being given devolved powers to decide the opening hours of pubs and clubs within its own Council area?

Yes No Don't know

C) Entertainment and Casino Complex

1. Would you support the development of an entertainment and casino complex in Belfast?

Yes No Don't know

If 'yes' or 'no' please tell us why _____

2. In your opinion would an entertainment and casino complex:

Have an overall positive impact on Belfast?

Have an overall negative impact on Belfast?

Please tell us why _____

3. Tell us to what extent you agree with the following statements:

Belfast would be more attractive for tourists and residents as a leisure destination if it had an entertainment and casino complex:

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
 nor disagree

An entertainment and casino complex in Belfast would lead to a rise in problem gambling?

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree Disagree Strongly Disagree
 nor disagree

4. If an entertainment and casino complex development was approved in Belfast, where do you think it should be located?

Belfast city centre only; anywhere in Belfast or
 in another specific area (please tell us where): _____

D) Other comments or suggestions

1. Please write any other comments below, or tell us about any other suggestions you have to help enhance Belfast’s tourism offer and bring economic benefit

Draft Consultees List

Name	Title	Organisation
John McGrillen	Chief Executive Tourism NI Floors 10-12 Linum Chambers Bedford Square Bedford Street Belfast BT2 7ES	Tourism NI info@tourismni.com Steph Stewart PA to Chief Executive 90441630
Janice Gault Gavin Carroll – President	Chief Executive Northern Ireland Hotels Federation	Northern Ireland Hotels Federation The McCune Building 1 Shore Road Belfast BT15 3PG janice@nihf.co.uk info@nihf.co.uk

Colin Neill	Chief Executive	Hospitality Ulster 91 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP enquiries@hospitalityulster.org
Gerry Lennon	Chief Executive	Visit Belfast
Aubrey Irwin	Head of NI	Tourism Ireland
Geraldine Duggan	City Centre Manager	Belfast City Centre Management 2 nd floor Sinclair House, 95-101 Royal Ave, Belfast BT1 1FE g.duggan@belfastcentre.com
Glyn Roberts	Chief Executive	NIIRTA
Carolyn Brown	Policy Manager	FSB
Michelle Greeve	President	Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce, 2 nd floor Sinclair House, 95-101 Royal Ave, Belfast BT1 1FE membership@belfastctc.com
Maurice Kinkead	Chief Executive	Eastside Partnership
Briege Arthurs	Chief Executive	South Belfast Partnership Board
Geraldine McAteer	Chief Executive	West Belfast Partnership Board
Jackie Redpath	Chief Executive	Shankill Partnership/Development Company

Liam Quinn	Principal; Social Policy and Legislation	Department for Communities
John Davidson	Chairperson	Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs
John Conner	Policy	PSNI
Chris Conway	Chief Executive	TRANSLINK
Confirm Contacts		Gambling Representatives (Bingo/Bookmakers/Amusement)
Confirm Contacts		Equality AA List
Callum Webster	NI Officer The Christian Institute	info@christian.org.uk
The Evangelical Alliance NI	First Floor Ravenhill House 105 Ravenhill Road Belfast BT6 8DR	nireland@eauk.org Public Policy Team info@eauk.org
Irish Council of Churches	48 Elmwood Avenue Belfast BT9 6AZ	info@churchesinireland.com
NI Catholic Council on Social Affairs (NICCOSA)		www.catholicbishops.ie/niccosa/
Church of Ireland	The Church and Society Commission of the Church of	Church of Ireland House 61-67 Donegall Street

	Ireland	BT1 2QH
Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Assembly Buildings 2-10 Fisherwick Place Belfast BT1 6DW	info@presbyterianireland.org press@presbyterianireland.org
Methodist Church in Ireland	Council of Social Responsibility (Northern Executive) Chair of Northern Executive Rev David Clements	Secretary of Council on Social Responsibility csr@irishmethodist.org
Baptist Church in Ireland	Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland The Baptist Centre 19 Hillsborough Road, Moira BT67 0HG	abc@thebaptistcentre.org
Roman Catholic	Diocese of Down and Connor Diocesan Director of Public and Social Affairs Very Rev Timothy Bartlett Lisbreen 75 Somerton road BT15 4DE	
Salvation Army	12 Station Mews Sydenham Belfast BT4 1TL	ireland@salvationsrmy.org.uk
Jewish	Belfast Jewish Community 49 Somerton Road Belfast BT15 3LH	belfastjewishcommunity@gmail.com
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