

DECISION-MAKER:	LICENSING COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING (GENERAL) SUB-COMMITTEE COMMITTEE
DATE OF DECISION:	4 TH NOVEMBER 2010
REPORT OF:	SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
N/A	

BRIEF SUMMARY

The report sets out recommendations that the membership and administration of the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee be brought into line with the membership and operation of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the membership of the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee be reduced from seven to three members, with a quorum of 2;
- (ii) That the membership continue to be drawn from the membership of the Licensing Committee with the Chair to be elected at the commencement of each meeting for the purposes of that meeting only;
- (iii) That the General Sub-Committee be administered on the same lines as the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee utilising the meeting dates currently scheduled as required;
- (iv) That the arrangements take effect from the start of the 2011 municipal year.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To bring the membership the General Sub-Committee in line with the membership of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee.
2. To promote administrative efficiency and minimise inconvenience to members by enabling the Solicitor to the Council to utilise and share the dates on the schedule in place for the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee. Convening meetings of the General Sub-Committee on the same days where possible would facilitate an efficient, cost effective and quicker discharge of business that needs to come before members.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. If the membership of the General Sub-Committee be reduced from seven (ratio 4:2:1) to three (ratio 1:1:1) while the two Sub-Committees could not be combined, they could share the same schedule. With the members listed sitting as either the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee or as the General Sub-Committee as business demands
4. Owing to the allocation of seats among the political groups it would be most practical, should members approve the officers' recommendations, to instigate the changes at the commencement of the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

5. There has been consultation between Political Group spokespersons by email and discussion with officers.
6. The option of leaving the membership of the General Sub-Committee at the current level of seven with meetings scheduled for Wednesdays remains but in the light of the need to deal with matters both efficiently and expeditiously the option does not appear to have much merit. The opportunity to streamline and rationalise the City's licensing hearing process with a view to facilitating quicker response times is the recommended option.
7. The membership of the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee was agreed by the political Groups as being seven members to be drawn from the membership of the Licensing Committee (ratio 4:2:1 to comply with the political balance) consisting of a permanent Chair and Vice-Chair together with four other members of the parent Committee nominated on a meeting by meeting basis.
8. The membership of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee consists of three members drawn from the fifteen members of the Licensing Committee as prescribed by the 2003 Act and to date has worked well, hence the proposal to extend this to the General Sub Committee. Although there is no requirement for the main Committee or the Sub-Committee to be politically balanced under the Act the City Council has nevertheless ensured that that membership of both accurately reflects the political makeup of the Council where possible.
9. Currently the Solicitor to the Council maintains, in consultation with group spokespersons, a schedule of dates for meetings of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committee for every other Thursday. By reducing the number of members on the General Sub-Committee it would be possible to utilise the sub committee dates and schedule to hold either Sub-Committee on any of these dates allowing greater flexibility and quicker response times to licensing applications and matters that arise under the 1972 Act.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

10. There are no capital implications arising from the proposals in the report.
11. Naturally there would be a reduction in cost by virtue of having less meetings but this has not been quantified.

Property/Other

12. There are no property implications arising from the proposals in the report
13. Not applicable.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Power to undertake the proposals in the report:

14. Section 102 Local Government Act 1972 provides the authority to appoint committees to discharge functions. The discharge of the powers delegated to the Licensing Committee by statute or Council are solely vested in it and it is therefore for the Licensing Committee to decide how to best discharge these functions.

Other Legal Implications:

15. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

16. The proposals in the report do not conflict with any policy framework documents.

AUTHOR:	Name:	Richard Ivory	Tel:	023 8083 2794
	E-mail:	richard.ivory@southampton.gov.uk		

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members’ Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	None.
2.	

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None.
2.	

Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject/recommendations in the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
2.		

Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: Not Applicable.

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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Report Tracking

VERSION NUMBER:	1
DATE LAST AMENDED:	08/10/10
AMENDED BY:	Richard Ivory