

14th January 2010

Future Arrangements for the Licensing Committees



Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Resources

1. Summary

The Committee is asked to note the report attached as appendix one, which was considered by the Constitutional Working Group on 18th December 2009.

2. Details

The report on the future arrangements for the delivery of the licensing functions of the Council was submitted to ensure that the arrangements put in place for the next municipal year are appropriate.

The Constitutional Working Group decided to recommend to Council the following options:-

Option 3 - Remove the requirement for local members to sit on local cases. This will ensure that Sub-Committees deal with the business in front of them regardless of the locality. In the event that Members wish to have an input on cases in their locality they can make representations as an interested party.

Option 7 - Reduce the number of venues from six to two – Chester le Street and Spennymoor. These venues could be block booked with a decision on which is to be used being made dependent upon the business to be considered. Both of these venues could accommodate the recording of proceedings.

Option 9 - Schedule Sub-Committee meetings on a fortnightly basis with a view to reducing the number of meetings which need to be cancelled, keeping the provision under review as appropriate.

Option 11 - determine a set day of the week and time for licensing Sub-Committees, so that no matter which area or which Sub-Committee, Members, officers and the public know when Sub-Committee meetings will take place.

Option 12 - retain 15 Statutory Licensing Committee members

Option 15 - identify a panel of three Members plus a Chair or Vice Chair for each scheduled meeting at the start of each Municipal year. This will enable Members to know when they sit, but they won't necessarily sit with the same people each time and the frequency of sitting will not necessarily be equal.

Option 18 – Remove the requirement for Members sitting on the Statutory Licensing Committee to automatically also sit on the General Licensing and Registration Committee, with a view to reducing the size of the General Licensing and Registration Committee.

Option 20 - Create three Sub-Committees of seven Members to sit with a Chair or Vice Chair as a panel of eight members, which would have the effect of creating a General Licensing and Registration Committee of 24 Members.

3. For Decision

The Committee is asked to note the proposed arrangements for the Licensing Committees in the new municipal year.

Background Papers:

None

Contact: Clare Greenlay 0191 3727630
