

Committee	The Central Licensing Committee
Date :	15 September 2014
Title	Chairing the Central Licensing Committee and the General Licensing Committee
Author	Senior Solicitor
Action :	To consider the options

1. Background

1.1 In its previous meeting the committee expressed its dissatisfaction at the fact that it could not appoint the same member to the chair of both the Central Licensing Committee and the General Licensing Committee.

1.2 The Central Licensing Committee's role is to consider matters under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. It is a statutory requirement to establish this committee, but it cannot consider anything else. Consequently, the Council has established the General Licensing Committee to decide on other licensing matters.

1.3 Constitutionally therefore these are two separate committees that meet separately. However the Council has also decided that the same members should serve on both committees, and this is provided for in the Constitution.

1.4 The Council's Constitution also provides that a member cannot chair more than one committee. Under the present circumstances it is not possible therefore to appoint the same member as Chair of both committees.

1.5 The committee might therefore consider, as the membership of the committees is constitutionally identical, whether there would be a benefit in allowing the same member to be Chair of both.

1.6 If the committee decides in favour of this option, it would involve amending the constitution and a recommendation would therefore have to be presented to a meeting of the Full Council.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The committee is asked for its views.