

<p><b>Title of Report:</b></p> <p><b>Draft Amusement Permit Policy</b></p>	<p><b>Officer Presenting: Director of Health and Community</b></p> <p><b>Author: Head of Health and Community Wellbeing</b></p>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the draft Amusement Permit Policy (Appendix 1) following recent public consultation exercises (HC/50/18; HC227/18).

## **2 Background Information**

- 2.1 In order to operate an amusement arcade an application must be made to Council for an amusement permit under the Betting and Gaming (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 as amended by The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985.
- 2.2 The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) enforce amusement permit legislation and inspect amusement arcades to ensure that the permit holder complies with statutory requirements.
- 2.3 Applicants must obtain planning permission for a premises before applying for a new amusement permit.
- 2.4 An Internal Audit report of the Councils Licensing service (AAR20/18) highlighted the need for an Amusement Permit Policy to be developed.
- 2.5 The initial public consultation concluded on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 however a further consultation exercise took place to ensure all interested parties were given an opportunity to respond (HC227/18). Over 130 organisations have been provided with an opportunity to respond during both consultation exercises.
- 2.6 The latest consultation exercise which concluded on 14<sup>th</sup> December resulted in an additional two responses being received prior to the deadline, bringing the total number of responses received by Council to eight (Appendix 3). An officer response including recommendations has been provided where appropriate as outlined in Appendix 4.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The proposed policy will serve as a guide for Members, council officers, applicants and the wider public on the decision making process for amusement permit applications in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.
- 3.2 An amusement permit policy would enable council to include in the assessment of an amusement application the following criteria:
- Impact on retail vitality and viability of Derry City and Strabane
  - Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location
  - Impact on the image and profile of Derry City and Strabane
  - Proximity to residential use
  - Proximity to schools, youth centres and residential institutions
- 3.3 The Health and Community Wellbeing Department will liaise with the Planning Department to establish a consultation mechanism for assessing planning applications for proposed amusement arcades.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications**

- 4.1 Any costs associated with implementing the new policy will be met from within existing budgets.
- 4.2 The relevant equality and good relations implications of the Amusement Permit Policy have been screened. (Appendix 5)

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Committee is asked to note the submissions received as part of the public consultation exercises and approve the draft Amusement Permit Policy. (Appendix 1).

#### **Background Papers**

HC/50/18; HC227/18; AAR20/18

Appendix 1: Draft Amusement Permit Policy

Appendix 2: Public Notices

Appendix 3: Responses to public consultation

Appendix 4: Council Officer Observations and comments

Appendix 5: Amusement Permit Policy Screening