

Report to	Licensing committee 9 June 2016	Item
Report of	Head of citywide services	9
Subject	Members of the licensing committee serving on licensing sub-committees	

Purpose

To inform members of alterations to the selection of members serving on licensing sub-committees

Recommendation

That members note the report.

Financial Consequences

The financial consequences of this report are nil.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of a safe and clean city and the service plan priority of protecting the interests of the public through the administration of the licensing function.

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick – Neighbourhoods and community safety

Contact officers

Tony Shearman, licensing manager

01603 212761

Background documents

None

Report

1. The sale of alcohol and provision of entertainment is regulated under the Licensing Act 2003.
2. The decision making process regarding contested applications for premises licences, made under this legislation, involves forming a licensing sub-committee of members drawn from the full Licensing committee, normally three.
3. Since the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003, Norwich City Council has operated a policy, albeit an unwritten one, that the members serving on any such licensing sub-committee, should not include those representing the ward within which the premises is located.
4. This policy is not required by the legislation and it is unclear some 11 years later, why it was introduced. This exclusion of relevant ward members is not apparent in other similar decision making processes, such as planning committee hearings.
5. Unless a relevant ward member is in a position that they would have to declare an interest in a particular premises or application, as would be the case for any elected member; it is considered that a ward member would be a reasonable person to make informed decisions relating to matters within their ward.
6. Therefore, future licensing sub-committees may be served by members from within and outside the relevant ward.