

(i) APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL (AN7-2017)

The current policy is that all applications for renewal involving premises are advertised in the local press. Those applications which attract objections, representations or where officers have adverse comments are dealt with by the Committee and where there are no objections, representations or adverse comments the applications are dealt with by the Convener under delegated powers.

Advertising applications in the local press is discretionary and the decision to advertise renewals was taken in 1984, following the introduction of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 in July that year. Applicants also have to display a notice at their premises. This is a mandatory requirement.

Very few objections to renewals have been lodged in recent years whilst the cost of advertising has increased.

New applications involving liquor licensed premises are dealt with at Licensing Board meetings and a notice is displayed at the premises and nearby neighbours notified. They are not advertised in the press, only on the Council website. There is no requirement to neighbour notify for licences issued under the 1982 Act and it is recommended that renewal applications which involve premises be advertised on the Council website instead of in the press. This would also apply to HMO renewals.

It is envisaged that this will in fact provide a better service to the public as applications will be on the website for the entire objection period of 28 days rather than appearing in a newspaper once. There will also be a modest cost saving of in the region of £4,000 per annum.

New applications will continue to be advertised in the press and also on the website.

As regards HMO's it is further recommended that, similar to new applications for all other licences, where there are no objections or adverse comments and the application is within the policy, they be dealt with by the Convener under delegated powers. This would allow non contentious applications to be dealt with more efficiently and save time at Licensing Committee meetings.