

Response from Newry and Mourne District Council on the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Bill

Respondent Details

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Having considered the Pavement Café Bill, Newry and Mourne District Council would wish to submit the following comments and recommendation for consideration in respect of the Bill.

The Council believe that developing a café culture can have a positive effect on the urban environments, helps promote town and city centres, makes a difference in terms of attracting visitors and tourists and contributes to the general well being of communities.

The Council is generally very supportive of the introduction of legislation which enables and regulates pavement cafés and wishes to make constructive comments to help shape the Bill.

1. The Council would endorse the comprehensive response made by the Licensing Forum, Belfast City Council and NILGA.
2. The consultation process should include responses from the DOE Road Service.
3. There should be consistency across Councils on how this is to be promoted and consistency of the application.
4. Guidance is required on the restriction of trading on open spaces.
5. Consideration to be given for dedicated storage spaces for the street furniture remote from existing fire escapes.

6. Position of street furniture should not restrict the existing fire escape routes.
7. Licence time limits should not be restricted to summer months but should be based on an annual licence, as this is difficult to enforce.
8. The licence provided by the Council should be displayed in a prominent position.