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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report To:** Licensing Committee – 11 June 2012  
**Subject:** Political Balance of Subcommittees  
**Report Of:** The City Solicitor

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**Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from the Committee to waive the requirement that its subcommittees are always politically balanced.

Whilst every effort will be made to convene a politically balanced panel, this may not always be possible as there is currently only one member of the opposition group serving on the Committee. Therefore to ensure that the business of the subcommittees continues in a timely manner it is acknowledged that subcommittees may consist of members comprised from one political group.

**Recommendations**

That the Committee agree to waive the requirement that its subcommittees are always politically balanced until such time as there are two or more members of other groups appointed to the committee.

**Financial Consequences for the Revenue Budget** None  
**Financial Consequences for the Capital Budget** None

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**Background Documents**

The Council's Constitution

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**Background**

1. The principles of political balance are set out in Part 5, Section A, 6.6a of the Constitution. This states:  
  
    “that not all seats on the committee, sub committee or relevant joint authority or joint committee (“the body”) are allocated to the same political group; “
2. The legislative requirements of political balance do not apply to

subcommittees established under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. However the Council has been operating the subcommittee hearings in accordance with those principles, and whilst it is the intention to try to continue to do so, this might not always be possible.

3. Therefore to enable subcommittees to undertake their functions in a timely fashion the Committee are asked to waive this requirement until such time as there are two or more members of other groups appointed to the Committee.