**Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ**

**Central
Bedfordshire**

CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP
2 December 2010

TITLE	Licensing and Regulation Committees – possible merge	**ITEM NO.**
REPORT OF	Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager	

PURPOSE	To consider whether there is a need for two separate committees of Licensing and Regulation, or whether the functions should be carried out by one committee

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	Cllr Tony Green, following a meeting of Regulation Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

(1)   that consideration be given to amending the Constitution to provide for a Licensing Committee to replace the functions of both the current Licensing Committee and Regulation Committee.

(2)   that a recommendation be made to Council accordingly.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.   The Constitution currently provides for a Licensing Committee and a Regulation Committee. Both Committees have the same membership.

2. The Licensing Act 2003 requires every Local Authority to have a Licensing Committee, for the purposes of dealing with matters under the Licensing Act. There is, however, no restriction on the ability of that Committee to deal with other functions as well as those prescribed under the Licensing Act.

3. It appears that the creation of two committees, one for Licensing purposes and the other for Regulation, was originally made at one of the Council's legacy authorities when the Licensing Act came into force, in recognition of the sheer volume of work that may be needed to be dealt with by the Licensing Committee.

4. Comments have been made by a member of these Committees suggesting that there is no longer a need for two committees and that they be combined into one.

5. The creation of one committee to serve both purposes would require amendment to the Constitution as set out at **Appendix A**, and removal from the constitution of reference to the Regulation Committee.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager tel: 0300 300 6076 (internal ext 76076)	none