

JOINT PRESS RELEASE – THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND AND HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Heritage Lottery Fund Extends Deadline for Royal Hall Harrogate Application

21st July 2004

On 20th July, the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund extended the deadline, to the end of December 2004, for Harrogate Borough Council to develop plans to restore Harrogate's Royal Hall within the £8million budget available.

Commenting on the decision Stephen Johnson, Operations Director for the Heritage Lottery Fund said: "The Heritage Lottery Fund has always recognised the importance of the Royal Hall in Harrogate as a much-loved public building which should be contributing to local life at the heart of the town.

"We are committed to working with the Council using our experience of other schemes so that they can create plans that will deliver the best use of lottery money. This means getting the right balance between opening the hall up for people to see and making sure it is restored for the future."

Councillor Mike Gardner, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council said: "This is a welcome result from very positive discussions we have had with the Heritage Lottery Fund for which we are extremely grateful. The Council will now be funding a supplemental study of the building to see how much can be achieved with the £8m which is on the table."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Harrogate has already benefited from over £6million of heritage lottery money with 33 local projects receiving money.

*A 'Stage One Pass' means that money has been earmarked by the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project in question. Competition at this stage is tough, and while a Stage One Pass does not guarantee funding, it is an indication of positive support, and money for the scheme is set aside. The applicant can then progress to Stage Two and submit a further, fully developed application to secure the full grant. On occasion, at Stage One, funding will also be awarded towards the development of the scheme.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our

nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. We have supported more than 15,000 projects, allocating £3billion across the UK.

For further information about the Heritage Lottery Fund, please contact either Mandy Pursey on 020 7591 6032, mobile 07813 696637 or Katie Owen on 020 7591 6036 www.hlf.org.uk. Councillor Mike Gardner is available for comment on 01423 556022.