



Media Release

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DATE:

A NEW ERA FOR LICENSING OF ALCOHOL AND ENTERTAINMENT

AS the Home Secretary launches an appeal to licensees to crack down on binge drinking, Harrogate Borough Council is starting to consult on the shake-up of licensing laws, which will come into force next year. The responsibility for licensing the sale and supply of alcohol is to be passed from the Magistrates' Courts to local authorities.

Harrogate Borough Council is required to produce and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy, which will set out the local approach to the new regime.

Residents, businesses and interested groups are being invited to comment on this draft policy.

Councillor Bob Nash, Chairman of Harrogate's Licensing Committee, said:

“The proposed changes include the scrapping of terminal hours, giving licensees the opportunity to apply for flexible trading hours. The policy will be crucial when we are looking at granting licences and the public will be very interested in which premises get a licence to sell alcohol or put on entertainment.

“To balance the greater trading flexibility. Licensees will be required to demonstrate how they will address issues of crime and disorder, safety, disturbance and protection of children. Residents and local businesses will have greater powers to request that licences be reviewed. The licensing policy we create could contribute to tackling such things as drinks promotions, which are often blamed for the rise in binge-drinking.”

The council is seeking comments on its draft Statement of Licensing Policy, which can be viewed at all local libraries (including mobiles), all council building receptions and on the internet at

<http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/healthandhousing/documents/licensing/policy.pdf>

The policy covers management of the key objectives of the new legislation – prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, protection of children from harm and public nuisance.

The council is particularly interested in hearing from residents' associations. Please contact Gareth Bentley, Licensing Manager on 01423 556836.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Bob Nash is available for comment on 01423 879527. Further technical information is available from Mrs Nicky Garside, Assistant Director of Health on 01423 556847.