

**Briefing Note for General Purposes and Licensing Committee
28 September 2011**

**Government proposals to Deregulate the Licensing of 'Entertainment'
Licensing Act 2003**

The Government have issued a consultation paper on their proposals to remove the requirement to licence 'Regulated Entertainment' (Schedule 1 of the Licensing Act 2003).

The effect of this would be that almost all of the activities currently requiring a licence would be exempt. This would cover :-

- a performance of a play,
- an exhibition of a film,
- an indoor sporting event,
- a performance of live music,
- any playing of recorded music, and
- a performance of dance

The only activities which it is proposed would continue to be licensed are :-

- Any performance of live music, theatre, dance, recorded music, indoor sport or exhibition of film where the audience is of **5,000** people or more.
- Boxing and wrestling.
- Any performance of dance that may be classed as sexual entertainment, but is exempt from separate sexual entertainment venue regulations.

The main impact of these proposals would relate to the 'Public Nuisance' licence objective from uncontrolled music (live or pre-recorded). As Entertainment activities would not require a licence there would be no opportunity for Responsible Authorities, Residents or Members to make any representations about noise nuisance as part of any licence application for alcohol. No conditions could be imposed a licence in respect of noise.

The consultation paper recognises that certain types of entertainment are unlikely to cause public nuisance and suggests that licensing is an unnecessary burden and existing statutory provisions are adequate to control situations where any problems arise.

The retail sale of alcohol is unchanged by these proposals and continues to be licensed as before.

The DCMS (Dept of Culture Media & Sport) have issued a detailed consultation paper asking for responses to the proposals by 3 Dec 2011. A copy of the full consultation paper is attached.

Members may wish to give further consideration to the proposals and respond. If so Paul Lehane will arrange for members views to be sought, collated and forwarded to the DCMS

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