

**LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE**

29th November, 2011

**PRESENT** – Councillors Nutt (in the Chair), B. Jones, D. Jones, Lawton, lee, J. Lyonette, Newall, S. Richmond, Stenson and J. Vasey. (10)

**APOLOGIES** – The Mayor; Councillors C. Hughes and Thistlethwaite. (3)

**LA5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest recorded at the meeting.

**LA6. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Licensing Act 2003 Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

**LA7. RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT (DCMS) CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF THE DEREGULATION OF ENTERTAINMENT** – The Director of Place submitted a report (previously circulated) inviting Members to approve a response by Members of the Licensing Committee to the DCMS consultation into the proposed deregulation of entertainment as a licensable activity under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Manger examined that the consultation was proposing to deregulate Schedule 1 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of audiences of less than 5000 (with the exception of boxing and wrestling which it proposes to retain as a licensable activity) and commenced in September 2011 and closes on 3 December 2011. The consultation is entirely separate from a Private Members Bill, currently in the House of Lords which proposes a level of deregulation for audiences of up to 200 people. A joint response from the Council's Licensing Section and Environmental Health Section was prepared for Members' consideration and appended to the submitted report.

The Environmental Health Manager in response to a Members question explained that the actions of the Darlington Public Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG) role was to provide guidance to organisers of public events; was not part of the Licensing process; and did not provide a licence or approval certificate for any event.

**RESOLVED** – That the Officers be congratulated on the thorough response and the response be approved.