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The future of the Local Better Regulation Office and Extending the benefits of the Primary Authority Scheme - Consultation Response form

Information about myself and our organisation.			
Title: Mr	Forename: Mike	Surname: Batty	
Organisation:	The Safer Stockton Partnership		
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Address 2:	Stockton on Tees Borough Council		
Address 3:	PO Box 232, 16 Church Road		
Town / City:	Stockton on Tees		
County:		Post code:	TS181XD
Tel. number:	(01642) 527074		
E-mail address:	mike.batty@stockton.gov.uk		
Sector: Other		Details of 'Other' Multi – Agency Partnership	
Responding to this consultation:			
Are you responding as:			
An individual <input type="checkbox"/> or on behalf of an organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
If you are responding on behalf of an organisation did you consult others within your organisation? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
If you represent a business, what size is it? Please select from list			
Does your business have sites in more than one local authority area?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Confidentiality:			
Please indicate which option you would prefer:			
• Responses can be published with respondent's details <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
• Responses can be published, but without respondent's details <input type="checkbox"/>			
• Responses cannot be published <input type="checkbox"/>			
Unless otherwise indicated responses will be treated confidentially and not be shared with third parties.			

Dear Sir

The future of the Local Better Regulation Office and extending the benefits of the Primary Authority Scheme - Consultation Response

The Safer Stockton Partnership is a multi-agency partnership that aims to improve the safety of the community in the borough of Stockton-on-Tees by:

- Reducing crime in the borough;
- Reducing disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough;
- Reducing fear of crime in the borough;
- Reducing fear of disorder and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

We wish to respond to the above consultation in relation to question 11 only. Please find our response below:

Question 11: Do you agree that the following Acts should be included within the scope of the Primary Authority Scheme so those covered by the regulatory regimes may benefit from the Primary Authority Scheme?

Point 5: Licensing Act 2003: only those parts related to age restricted products. Do you agree or disagree that these should be included?

We disagree with anything which relates to the Licensing Act 2003 being included within the Primary Authority Scheme.

The Licensing Act 2003 took the responsibility of making licensing decisions away from the Courts, other than in appeals, to ensure that licensing decisions took into consideration local concerns and ideas; working via the Primary Authority Scheme would reverse this, and contradicts the Government's Localism agenda.

Some areas of the country have more of an issue than others with under age sales of restricted products and the local authorities must retain the power to deal with their issues locally.

There are proposed changes being made to the Licensing Act 2003 which give an even greater voice to local residents in the way in which a variety of problems should be dealt with by the authorities, and working via the Primary Authority Scheme would reverse this localism agenda.

Additionally, we are concerned that as the Primary Authority Scheme is aimed at businesses with more than one outlet there will be an unfair and unacceptable disparity between the manner in which a large multi-outlet business and a single small business will be dealt with.

Point 6: Alternatively, do you think that licensing authorities should 'have regard to' (rather than 'comply with') Primary Authority advice on those parts of the Licensing Act 2003 related to age restricted products?

N/A, as we do not agree with the P.A.S. being rolled out to include age restricted products.

If you have any queries concerning our response, please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mike Batty
Head of Community Protection