Briefing Note – Street café – encroachment

A number of stakeholders including retailers in the town centre have raised concerns regarding restaurants and cafés encroaching with tables and chairs beyond the permitted areas on the street (as set out in their individual licences). The main difficulty this causes is restriction on the highway, hindering the public from moving freely in these areas.

In order to address these concerns, the Council has purchased studs to be placed on the highway denoting the extent of the area that businesses can put their tables and chairs out. These studs are to be installed by the Council’s term contractor (Amey) before Easter which will enable easier enforcement.

There have also been a number of cases where A-boards have been placed on the highway by businesses. The Borough’s policy is that A-boards are not allowed.

Enforcement was carried out in November 2015 to remove the illegal A-Boards, which proved to be relatively successful. However, this will require ongoing enforcement alongside the table and chair encroachment. Once the studs are in place another round of enforcement will take place before Easter.