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**APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS  
A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

**THE KINGS HOTEL, PRIESTGATE, DARLINGTON**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider an application received from the Kings Hotel, Priestgate for the grant of a licence to be approved as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994) and the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005.

**Summary**

2. The application has been the subject of the usual officer consultations and has been advertised. The Hotel has not previously been approved as a venue for civil ceremonies. No objections have been received.
3. The Superintendent Registrar has been working closely with the hotel to encourage and support the venue to become an approved venue for civil ceremonies. Customer interest suggests that it will be a popular venue for civil ceremonies generating additional income for both the Council and the hotel.
4. The premises are considered to be suitable for approval as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships, subject to the standard conditions and a limit on the number of people permitted to be present in the nominated rooms.

**Information**

5. The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994) and the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, (Reg. 4) permit a Local Authority to approve the use of certain premises as venues for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships. This Council is the appropriate Authority for premises within the Borough of Darlington.
6. A copy of the application submitted is attached.
7. Following receipt of the application, consultations have been carried out with the following:-

- (a) Licensing Officer, Darlington Borough Council
- (b) Building Control Manager, Darlington Borough Council
- (c) The Fire Service.

8. In accordance with building control requirements, the applicant has confirmed:

- (a) that a Fire Risk assessment has been carried out within the last 3 years which covers the proposed areas for use and occupancy.
- (b) That a Disability Risk Assessment has been carried out and that there are no access issues for persons attending ceremonies in the proposed areas for use and occupancy.
- (c) The Fire Safety Officer recommends that the maximum number of persons permitted in each room be as follows :-

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
The Ballroom	300
The Pullman Suite	60
The Locomotion Suite	40

### **Legal Implications**

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Conclusion**

11. The Officers are satisfied that it would be appropriate for the grant of The Kings Hotel, Priestgate, Darlington as a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended) and the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, and the Licence be granted subject to the points above being taken into account. The licence will last for a period of 3 years from the date of issue.

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that approval be granted for the Kings Hotel, Priestgate, Darlington as an approved venue for the solemnisation of Marriages and Civil Partnerships in respect of the venue subject to the standard licence conditions and that the maximum number of persons permitted to occupy ceremony rooms on the occasion of Civil Marriages or Civil Partnerships should be as outlined in accordance with the Fire Officer's recommendations.

**Catherine Whitehead  
Proper Officer**

## **Background Papers**

- (i) Application from the Kings Hotel, Priestgate, Darlington for grant of premises as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships.
- (ii) Correspondence to Licensing Officer, Fire Officer and Building Control.

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