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

**HOTEL BANNATYNE SOUTHEND AVENUE, DARLINGTON**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider an application received from Hotel Bannatyne for the renewal of a licence to be approved as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of:
  - (a) The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994);
  - (b) The Civil Partnership Act (2004);
  - (c) The Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005;  
and
  - (d) The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

**Summary**

2. The three year licence of Hotel Bannatyne as an approved venue is now due for renewal and Members are asked to consider the application.

**Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that the application for renewal be granted for Hotel Bannatyne, Southend Avenue, 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  
Assistant Chief Executive  
and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District**

**Background Papers**

Application from Hotel Bannatyne for renewal of premises as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships.

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to Health and Wellbeing.
Sustainability	There are no issues in relation to Sustainability
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	All Equally
Groups Affected	All Equally
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy.
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

4. Since 1994 Registration Districts have been able to approve other venues as an alternative venue to a Register Office which are largely hotels.
5. Hotel Bannatyne has been a licensed venue for Civil Ceremonies since 1994 when it was formerly the New Grange Hotel and has continued to be a popular venue for Civil Weddings generating business for the Register Office and for local business and attracting couples who are marrying both local and from further afield.
6. There have been no issues with the venue which would adversely affect its application. The three year licence as an approved venue is now due for renewal and the committee are asked to consider the application.

### Outcome of Consultation

7. The application has been the subject of the usual officer consultations and has been advertised. No objections have been received. The building has the required fire risk assessments and there are no access or DDA issues which would adversely affect the application.
8. 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.

9. A copy of the application submitted is attached.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. The Fire Safety Officer recommends that the maximum number of persons permitted in each room be as follows:-

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
Maxine's Restaurant	80 people
The Library	20 people
The Wilbur Suite	150 people

## **Conclusion**

13. Officers are satisfied that it would be appropriate for the renewal of Hotel Bannatyne, Darlington as a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the above legislation.
14. The licence will last for a period of 3 years from the date of issue.