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

CENTRAL HALL, THE DOLPHIN CENTRE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider an application 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 Central Hall 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 Central Hall, Dolphin Centre, 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 the Dolphin Centre, Darlington Borough Council for renewal of premises as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Anthony Hall : Extension 6400

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. Members will be aware that in addition to the Statutory Register Office and also its decommissioned marriage room the Pease Suite, Backhouse Hall, the Council also has a number of other venues licensed for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnerships to meet customer demand for either its location or to accommodate a larger wedding party.
6. Central Hall in the Dolphin Centre has been licensed for several years as such a venue and although is not regularly used for Civil Ceremonies has been used on several occasions for couples who have more than 80 guests and therefore can't use the Pease Suite in the Register Office.
7. 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

8. 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.

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

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
Central Hall	500 people

Conclusion

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