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

**HALL GARTH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB HOTEL, DARLINGTON**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider an application received from Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel for a renewal of its 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), the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

**Summary**

2. Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel has been an approved venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships for a number of years, being a successful wedding venue and its three year licence is now due for renewal.
3. During the period of its current three year licence (which is due to expire on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017) there have been no issues or problems which contravene the licensing conditions.
4. The majority of the weddings at this Hotel are conducted in either the Brafferton Suite, the Summerson Suite, the Conservatory or in the Garden Gazebo.
5. The Hotel has recently changed ownership and received some investment improving the condition of the Hotel generally and has also resulted in the construction of the Secret Garden Gazebo which is very popular for outside weddings.
6. Also as part of this investment the conservatory has significantly increased in size and consequently now the hotel are looking to increase the maximum capacity of guests in that room from 30 to 50 people.

7. As an already approved venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships, the Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel is therefore 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 below.

### **Information**

8. The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 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.
9. It is proposed that the capacities in the Designated Rooms to be a maximum of (no change other than to the conservatory):

Summerson Suite – 220  
Brafferton Suite (combined) – 350  
Residents Lounge – 25  
Stables Bar Conservatory – 40  
Restaurant – 40  
Conservatory – 50 (currently 30)  
The Lounge – 30  
The Secret Garden Gazebo – 6\*

\*The designated number comprises of the couple, two registrars and two witnesses, the number of guests sat outside of the structure is unlimited.

### **Legal Implications**

10. This report has been considered by the Assistant Director, Law and Governance, the Fire Service, Building Control and also the Licensing Officer for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Assistant Director, Law and Governance 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**

11. 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**

12. The Officers are satisfied that it would be appropriate for the renewal of Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel, Darlington as a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended) and the Marriage, Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013) and the that Licence be renewed subject to the points above being taken into account. The approval will lasts for a period of 3 years from the date of issue.

## **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that approval be granted for The Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel, 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 previous licensing conditions.

**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director of Law and Governance and**  
**Proper Officer for the Registration Service**

## **Background Papers**

Application from Hall Garth Golf and Country Club Hotel for renewal of premises as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships.

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