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

**Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington**

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**Purpose of Report**

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

**Summary**

Since 1994 Registration Districts have been able to approve other venues as an alternative venue to a Register Office which are largely hotels.

Bannatyne Hotel 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, attracting couples who are marrying both local and from further afield.

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.

## Information

2. The building has the required fire risk assessments and there are no access or DDA issues which would adversely affect the application.

When weddings take place outside in the Gazebo the hotel are aware that recorded music is not permitted to be played outside in view of the close proximity of neighbouring properties.

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.

3. A copy of the application submitted is attached and the renewal fee of £1700.00 has been paid.
4. 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.
5. In accordance with building control requirements, the applicant has confirmed:
  - that a Fire Risk assessment has been carried out within the last 3 years which covers the proposed areas for use and occupancy.
  - 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.

The Fire Safety Officer recommends that the maximum number of persons permitted in each room be as follows :-

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
Maxime's Restaurant	80 people
The Library	20 people
The Wilbur Suite	150 people
The Gazebo	6 people

## **Legal Implications**

6. This report has been considered by the Assistant Director or Law and Governance for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which 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**

7. 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**

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

## **Recommendation**

9. It is recommended that application for renewal be granted for Bannatyne Hotel, 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 which are the same as for the period of the current licence.

**Luke Swinhoe, Assistant Director or Law and Governance  
and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District**

## **Background Papers**

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

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