

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Kane (Chair), Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Dulston, Haszeldine, Lawley, Lee, Mahmud, K Nicholson, Ray and Toms

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali and Donoghue

ABSENT – Councillor Curry

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jim Langley (Principal Lawyer - Litigation), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Anthony Hall (Superintendent Registrar), Marc Atkins (Lawyer (Litigation)) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

LG7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

LG8 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JUNE 2025

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Committee held on 17 June 2025.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing committee held on 17 June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

LG9 APPLICATION FOR/RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE(S) FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS - BLACKWELL GRANGE HOTEL

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration an application for the renewal of a licence for the Blackwell Grange Hotel, Grange Road, Darlington 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 2021; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

The submitted report gave a summary of the Blackwell Grange Hotel as an approved venue(s); the designated rooms and maximum capacity for each room for civil marriage and civil partnerships.

RESOLVED – That the licence for the Blackwell Grange Hotel as an approved premise for civil marriage and civil partnerships be granted for three years from 22 November 2025 to 22 November 2028 and that the places designated where civil marriage and civil partnerships can take place and the maximum capacity in those designated areas be:

Room	Maximum Capacity
The George Allan Suite	130
The Bruhenny Suite	300
The Havelock Restaurant	150
The Gazebo	6

Notes:

1. Maximum capacities do not include the couple being married, registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff.
2. Outdoor marriages/civil partnerships can take place at any location within the boundary of the venue.
3. Where an outdoor structure has been approved for marriages/civil partnerships the maximum number of persons within the approved structure is the couple being married and their witnesses and excludes registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff. The number of guests located outside of the structure is unlimited and does not form part of the maximum capacity of the structure.

LG10 STREET TRADING POLICY REVIEW

The Executive Director, Economy and Public Protection submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that this Committee approves Darlington's Street Trading Policy (also previously circulated) for public consultation.

The submitted report stated that Darlington's Street Trading Policy was last reviewed in January 2015 and Licensing was seeking views from all stakeholders, including traders and the public to ensure it remained relevant and reflected changes within the town in recent years.

It was reported that Street Trading was governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, enabling Local Authorities to control street trading by designating areas as consent streets, licence streets and prohibited streets; that the current policy was based on decisions made by Members in 1991 and 1993, with the adoption of the provisions of the 1982 Act in relation to street trading, creating consent streets and prohibited streets by the Council's Works and Health Committee in 1991 and the setting of a policy for street trading in June 1993.

It was also reported that the current policy allowed for 12 daytime trading sites and four nighttime sites for stationary trading in the town centre; that there was one nighttime trader within the town centre and no static daytime street traders; that there had been a significant decline in town centre trading in recent years, particularly following the covid pandemic; and that there were 19 mobile street traders within the borough outside the town centre. It was highlighted that the current fixed locations may no longer be appropriate, following developments in recent years.

Reference was made to concerns raised by current retailers in relation to street trading and the consultation process was outlined.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for granting licences to mobile street traders; the impact of street traders on retailers in the town; and following a question regarding requirements for food traders, Members were advised that it was a requirement for food traders to be registered with environmental health in order to trade.

RESOLVED – That the commencement of a public consultation process relating to the consideration and adoption of a revising Street Trading Policy be approved by the General Licensing Committee.

LG11 QUESTIONS

Members asked questions regarding dog breeding licenses and the process for annual inspections of businesses.