

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

27 FEBRUARY 2024

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

BANNATYNE HOTEL, SOUTHEND AVENUE, DARLINGTON

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application for the grant of a licence to be an approved venue for civil marriage 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 2021; and
 - (d) The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

Summary

2. Since 1994 local authorities have been able to approve venues where civil marriages and civil partnerships can take place as an alternative venue to a Register Office with most approved venues being hotels.
3. The Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington has been licensed as an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships since 1994 and was the first such venue approved when it was known as the New Grange Hotel.
4. The Bannatyne Hotel remains a popular venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships and brings couples being married and their guests to the hotel from Darlington and a wider geographical area thereby playing an important role in the Darlington economy.
5. The civil ceremony licence for The Bannatyne Hotel is due to expire on 6 April 2024 and the hotel are seeking a renewal of that licence for a further three years from 6 April 2024 to 6 April 2027. During the period of its current three year licence which expires on 6 April 2024 there have been no issues which would adversely affect its application to renew its licence.

Information

6. The Bannatyne Hotel has the required fire risk assessments and there are no accessibility issues which would adversely affect their application.

7. The premises are considered to be suitable for approval as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships. The venue does not wish to change the capacities or designated areas where civil marriages or civil partnership can take place.
8. The Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 were amended in March 2022 to permit outdoor marriages and civil partnerships at a suitable location anywhere within the boundary of the licensed premise.
9. The proposed locations and capacities for civil marriages and civil partnerships at the Town Hall, Darlington are:

Location	Maximum Capacity
Maxine's Restaurant & The Study Room	80
Wilbur Suite	150
The Library	20
The Gazebo	6 (see note c)

Notes:

- a) Maximum capacities do not include the couple being married, registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff.
- b) Outdoor marriages/civil partnerships can take place at any location within the boundary of the venue.
- c) 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.

Financial Implications.

10. The Bannatyne Hotel have paid the council £1750.00 being the fee for consideration of application for the grant or renewal of a licence for civil marriages and civil partnerships.
11. The Bannatyne Hotel has several bookings for civil marriages and civil partnerships and couples have booked the register office to attend their ceremony and paid in advance for their ceremonies for ceremony bookings into 2026.

Legal Implications.

12. The current licence for The Bannatyne Hotel expires on 6 April 2024. The grant of a further licence is required to facilitate its civil marriages and partnerships bookings. The standard renewal licence is for three years from the date of expiry of the current licence. The licensing committee can issue a licence on a shorter timescale as a

temporary measure should it wish and/or make specific conditions including where the ceremony can take place, how many can attend and improvements for accessibility.

Conclusions.

13. Members are asked to grant the renewal of the licence to be an approved venue for civil marriages and civil partnership for The Bannatyne Hotel for a further three years from 6 April 2024 to 6 April 2027.

Recommendations.

14. It is recommended that the licence for The Bannatyne Hotel as an approved premise for civil marriages and civil partnerships be granted for three years from 6 April 2024 to 6 April 2027 and that the places designated where civil marriages and civil partnerships can take place indoors at the premises and the maximum of numbers of persons who can attend those marriages and civil partnerships continue to be:

Location	Maximum Capacity
Maxine's Restaurant & The Study Room	80
Wilbur Suite	150
The Library	20
The Gazebo	6 (see note c)

Notes:

- a) Maximum capacities do not include the couple being married, registrars, photographers/videographers and venue staff.
- b) Outdoor marriages/civil partnerships can take place at any location within the boundary of the venue.
- c) 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.

Reasons.

15. To facilitate civil marriages and civil partnerships at The Bannatyne Hotel, Darlington.

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

Background Papers.

There were no background papers in the production of this report.

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and well-being of residents of Darlington
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this reports needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	All wards are affected
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.
Impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers