

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

The Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum, North Road, Darlington

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application received from Darlington Borough Council 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

2. Head of Steam has been an approved venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships for a number of years.
3. 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.
4. During the term of its three year licence the venue has been used on a number of occasions for ceremonies and there have been no issues or problems.
5. The venue's current licence is due to expire on 2 June, 2019.

Information

6. 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 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.
7. A copy of the application submitted is attached as an **Appendix**. The renewal fee is not applied as the venue is a Darlington Borough Council venue.
8. 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 other than highlighted above.

9. The maximum number of persons permitted in each room is proposed as follows :-

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
The Meeting Room	60
The Platform	100
The Café	30

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Assistant Director, 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

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. Officers recommend that the Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum, North Road, Darlington is a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the above legislation and that the licence be renewed for a period of three years up to 2 June, 2022.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the application for renewal be granted for The Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum, North Road, 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 Building Control recommendations.

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

Background Paper

Application from Darlington Borough Council for renewal of premises as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships.