

LICENSING COMMITTEE
5 MARCH, 2019

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

The Hippodrome Theatre, Parkgate, 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. The Hippodrome Theatre is keen to become an approved premise for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnerships and whilst the number of ceremonies that will take place there will be relatively small in number, it will nevertheless be a welcome addition to the venues already approved for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships in Darlington and one which celebrates Darlington's history, identity and culture.
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. Subject to approval, a three year licence would be granted from the date of this Committee.

Information

5. 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.
6. A copy of the application submitted is attached an **Appendix**. The application fee is not applied as the venue is a Darlington Borough Council venue.
7. Following receipt of the application, consultations have been undertaken with the following:-
 - (a) Licensing Officer, Darlington Borough Council; and
 - (b) Building Control Manager, Darlington Borough Council.
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 Hippodrome Auditorium	1,000
The Hullabaloo Auditorium	100

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 Hippodrome Theatre, Parkgate, Darlington is a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the above legislation and that the licence be for a period of three years from the date of this Committee.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the application be granted for The Hippodrome Theatre, Parkgate, 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 as detailed in paragraph 9 above.

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

Background Paper

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

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