

**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE
APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth, Darlington**

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application received from Redworth Hall 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

2. Since 1994 Registration Districts have been able to approve other venues as an alternative venue to a Register Office which are largely hotels.
3. Redworth Hall Hotel is an established approved venue for Civil Ceremonies generating business for the Register Office and for local business, attracting couples who are marrying both the local area and from further afield.
4. There have been no issues with the venue which would adversely affect its application. The current three year licence as an approved venue is due to expire on 15th July, 2019 and the Committee is asked to consider an application for its renewal for a further three years.

Information

5. The Hotel has several areas within it designated as approved places where civil ceremonies can take place. A list of these designated rooms and capacities is attached as an **Appendix** with the renewal application form.

6. In practice most civil ceremonies take place in The Great Hall. The additional rooms currently approved as a place for civil ceremonies are to meet a customer request or to meet business continuity needs e.g. in the event of a particular area of the hotel being inaccessible in the event of urgent maintenance or another event.
7. As part of the renewal process a venue has the opportunity to review the places designated where a civil ceremony can take place to reflect its business needs. The application seeks to renew all of the rooms currently designated within the Hotel with the exception of the Surtees Suite as this area has been recently been redeveloped as part of the Hotel's sports and leisure facilities.
8. The renewal fee of £1,700 has been paid.
9. Following receipt of the application, consultation has been undertaken with the following:-
 - (a) Licensing Officer, Darlington Borough Council; and
 - (b) Building Control Manager, Darlington Borough Council
10. In accordance with building control requirements, the applicant has confirmed:-
 - That a Fire Risk assessment has been undertaken within the last three years which covers the proposed areas for use and occupancy.
 - That a Disability Risk Assessment has been undertaken and that there are no access issues for persons attending ceremonies in the proposed areas for use and occupancy other than highlighted above.

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

Designated Room	Maximum Capacity
The Great Hall	150
Kelvington Suite	100
Prince Bishop Suite	280
The Minstrels Gallery	20
The Restaurant	100
The 1744 Room	80
Cocktail Bar	50
The Summerhouse (this is an outside structure - those present will be two registrars, the couple and two witnesses. Guests will be outside in the Garden area (no limit on numbers)	6

Legal Implications

12. 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

13. 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

14. Officers recommend that Redworth Hall Hotel, Redworth is a suitable venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships under the above legislation and the Licence be renewed for a period of three years up to 15 July, 2022.

Recommendation

15. It is recommended that application for renewal be granted for Redworth Hall Hotel, 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.

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

Background Paper

Application from Redworth Hall Hotel for renewal of premises as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Author: Anthony Hall extension 6400