

	<p><b>General Functions Committee</b>  <b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2015</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of premises for Weddings and Civil Partnership Registrations: Allianz Park, Greenlands Lane, Hendon, London, NW4 1RL</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Proper Officer for Registration (Head of Customer Strategy and Programmes, Commissioning Group)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Mark Rimmer, Head of Registration and Nationality,  <a href="mailto:mark.rimmer@brent.gov.uk">mark.rimmer@brent.gov.uk</a>; 020 8937 1011</p>

<p><b>Summary</b></p>
<p>This report seeks approval for an application received from Allianz Park to be licensed as a venue for marriages and civil partnership registrations in pursuance of Section 46A of the marriage Act 1949 and the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and in pursuance of Section 6 (3A) (a) the Civil Partnership Act 2004.</p>

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>1. That the Committee approve the application for Allianz Park to become an Approved Premises for solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships for a period of three years.</b></p>

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 An application has been received from Allianz Park to be licensed as a venue for marriages and civil partnership registrations in pursuance of Section 46A of the Marriage Act 1949 and the marriages and civil partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and in pursuance of Section 6 (3A) (a) of the Civil Partnerships Act 2004. This report seeks approval of the application.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Registrar General has issued guidance to local authorities for the approval of premises as venues for civil marriages and civil partnerships (June 2015). The Authority may grant approval only if it is satisfied that:
- The application has been made in accordance with the Regulations.
  - The premises fulfil the requirements set out in the regulations.
  - The premises fulfil any other reasonable requirements which the Authority considers appropriate. Local requirements were agreed in 1995 by the former Policy & Resources Committee.
- 2.4 The application has been made in accordance with the Regulations and the necessary public notice was given on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 in the Barnet Press. No objections or other comments have been made.
- 2.5 The premises have been inspected by Head of Registration and Nationality, who has confirmed that they are suitable for this purpose and meet health and safety requirements.
- 2.6 The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority require venue owners to commission a fire risk assessment through an accredited person. Allianz Park possesses an up to date fire risk assessment.
- 2.7 The premises were found to be seemly and dignified venue for the solemnisations of marriages and registration of civil partnerships. A separate room is available for the couple to be interviewed prior to the ceremony. The area proposed for marriages and civil partnership registrations consists of the following rooms:
- Ground floor, multi-use space
  - Level 1, hospitality areas
  - Level 2, executive boxes
- 2.8 The premises are not religious premises and the rooms in which the ceremonies of marriage will be solemnised and civil partnerships registered are identifiable by the descriptions set out in paragraph 2.7 above and are distinct parts of the premises.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

3.1 Not applicable.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 There will be a short implementation period in which Allianz Park will make arrangements for offering their premises for this purpose.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

Approval of this decision will widen the local choice of venues for marriages and civil partnerships and will generate additional income and therefore, supports the Corporate Plan and one of the priorities of “promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough”.

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 The application fee of £875 has been received from Allianz Park.

5.2.2 The income received by the council when weddings take place at licensed venues is either £275 (Monday to Friday) £330 (Saturdays) or £385 (Sundays).

##### **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 Maintaining a variety of attractive wedding venues in Barnet increases the number of weddings being held in the borough, which can create additional social and economic value. There is a need for more venues catering for bigger wedding ceremonies in the borough, and this venue will cater for bigger events.

##### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Local authorities are able to approve premises as venues for civil marriages and civil partnerships in pursuance of Section 46A of the Marriage Act 1949 and the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and in pursuance of Section 6 (3A)(a) of the Civil Partnerships Act 2004. Such premises are required to meet certain criteria when making an application and they are set out in guidance from the Registrar General:

- The application must be made in accordance with regulations and the necessary public notice must be given.
- Any objections or comments must have been considered by the local authority.
- The premises are a seemly and dignified venue for the solemnisation of marriages and civil partnership.
- The premises meet the necessary Health and Safety and Fire requirements.
- The premises will be available for regular use by the general public for

both the solemnisation of marriages and civil partnership registrations.

5.4.2 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions Annex A states that the terms of reference of the General Functions Committee include 'Approving premises for marriages and the formation of civil partnerships'.

## **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 The risk of a venue not being suitable is managed through the process followed by the Registrars service, as indicated above.

5.5.2 The ongoing suitability of venues is reviewed each time a marriage or civil partnership ceremony is conducted, at which two qualified registration staff must always be present. Should a venue subsequently fail to meet the national and local requirements, a license can be withdrawn subject to a statutory procedure. This has never happened in Barnet or Brent.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 provide for the joint approval of premises for both civil marriages and civil partnerships.

5.6.2 Allianz Park is fully accessible for persons with a physical disability.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 This application was publicised by notice in the Barnet Press on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for three weeks without any objections being made.

5.7.2 There will be communications of the approval of this application by Allianz Park on their website, once the licence has been issued, and on London Borough of Barnet website.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 The application form for Allianz Park and supporting documents are available upon request to members of the Committee and for public inspection.