

	<p>General Functions Committee 18 February 2016</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Approval of premises for Weddings and Civil Partnership Registrations: Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4 4BG</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Proper Officer for Registration (Head of Customer Strategy and Programmes, Commissioning Group)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>Hendon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Mark Rimmer, Head of Registration and Nationality, mark.rimmer@brent.gov.uk; 020 8937 1011</p>

<p>Summary</p>
<p>This report seeks approval for an application received from Hendon Town Hall to be approved 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>Recommendation</p>
<p>1. That the General Functions Committee approve the application for Hendon Town Hall to renew their approval for solemnisation of civil marriages and registration of civil partnerships for a period of three years from 13th July 2015.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 An application has been received from Hendon Town Hall to renew their approval 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 previous approval expired on 13th July 2015. An application for renewal was made on 1st May 2015 in accordance with the Regulations and the necessary public notice was given on the 18th of June 2015 in the Barnet Press. No objections or other comments have been made. The approval for premises is deemed to be ongoing once an application for renewal has been received until the application is finally determined. The approval must be expressed as running from the date the previous approval expired.
- 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. Hendon Town Hall 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:

Council Chamber – 100
Heritage Room - 40
Committee Room 1 - 70
Committee Room 2 – 60
Committee Room 3 – 120

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 The alternative option is not to renew but this is not recommended as the application meets all the conditions required.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 As Hendon Town Hall is simply renewing their approval there will be no delay in implementation following the decision.

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 Hendon Town Hall.

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.

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, an approval 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 Hendon Town Hall 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 for three weeks without any objections being made.

5.7.2 The ongoing approval for Hendon Town Hall will be publicised on London Borough of Barnet website and on Gov.UK.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Not applicable.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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