

	<p align="center">General Functions Committee 10 October 2016</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>Approval of premises for Weddings and Civil Partnership Registrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cavendish Banqueting Suite, The Hyde, Edgware Road, NW9 5AE • Adam and Eve Public House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7 1RL • The Oak Room, 182 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8 0AU • The Haven Bistro and Bar, 1363/5 High Road, Whetstone, N20 9LN • Greenvue Venue, Mill Hill Country Club, Burtonhole Lane, Mill Hill, NW7 1AS
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Proper Officer for Registration (Head of Customer Strategy and Programmes, Commissioning Group)</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>Burnt Oak Mill Hill Totteridge</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Mark Rimmer, Head of Registration and Nationality, mark.rimmer@brent.gov.uk; 020 8937 1011</p>

Summary

This report seeks approval for the applications received from the Cavendish Banqueting Suite, The Adam and Eve Public House, The Oak Room, The Haven Bistro and Bar and the Greenvue Venue to have their approvals renewed as venues 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.

Recommendation

1. That the General Functions Committee approve the applications received from The Cavendish Banqueting Suite, The Adam and Eve Public House, The Oak Room, The Haven Bistro and Bar and The Greenvue Venue to renew approvals for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships for a further period of three years from the date of expiry of the most recent approvals.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 Applications have been received from the above venues to have their approvals as venues 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 renewed for a further three years. This report seeks approval for these applications.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

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 applications have all been made in accordance with the regulations and the necessary public notices were published in the Barnet Press. No objections or other comments have been made.

2.5 The premises have all been inspected by the 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. All the venues possess an up to date fire risk assessment.

- 2.7 The premises were found to be seemly and dignified venues for the solemnisation of marriages and registration of civil partnerships. A separate room is available for the couple to be interviewed prior to the ceremony. The areas proposed for marriages and civil partnership registrations are detailed on the plans submitted with the applications.
- 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 within the applications and are distinct areas within the premises.
- 2.9 The current approvals for the premises have expired. However, under the relevant regulations, as long as the application for renewal was received within 12 months of expiry of an approval, it is deemed to be ongoing until the application is determined. The renewal then takes effect from the date of expiry of the previous approval. All the applications were received in accordance with this condition.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable as the applications meet all the conditions required.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The approvals for these premises are ongoing and all the applications were received prior to the expiry date of the previous approval. Implementation is therefore effective from the date the previous approval expired.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

Approval of this decision will maintain the wide 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 all the venues with the exception of The Oak Room which is located within the Barnet Registration Office in Burnt Oak Broadway and is a council building.

- 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 these venues will cater for bigger events.

5.3.2 The full list of Approved Premises in Barnet is as follows:

The Adam and Eve Public House
Cavendish Banqueting Suite
The Haven Bistro and Bar
The Greenvue Venue
Hendon Hall Hotel
Avenue House
The Oak Room
Hendon Town Hall
Crowne Moran Hotel
Finchley Golf Club
Allianz Park
Ariana Banqueting Suite

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.

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 All the venues are accessible for persons with a physical disability.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 All the applications were publicised by notice in the Barnet Press for three weeks without any objections being made.

5.7.2 There will be communications of the approval of these applications on each venue's web site and once the approvals have been renewed, on London Borough of Barnet website.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Not applicable.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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