

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Functions Committee</b> <b>28 June 2017</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of premises for Weddings and Civil Partnership Registrations: Avenue House 17 East End Road London N3 3QE</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>Finchley Church End</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>Mandy Brammer, Head of Registration and Nationality, <a href="mailto:mandy.brammer@brent.gov.uk">mandy.brammer@brent.gov.uk</a>; 020 8937 1010</p>

## Summary

This report seeks approval for an application received from Avenue House to have their approval renewed 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.

## Recommendations

1. That the General Functions Committee approve the application received from The Avenue House to renew approval for the solemnisation of marriages and civil partnerships for a further period of three years from the date of expiry of the most recent approval.

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

- 1.1 Application has been received from the above venue to have 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 renewed for a further three years. 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 premise fulfils the requirements set out in the regulations.
  - The premise fulfils 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 in March 2017 in the Barnet Press. No objections or other comments have been made.
- 2.5 The premises have been inspected by Service Manager, Barnet Registration and Nationality Service, 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. Avenue House 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.
- 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 application and are distinct areas within the premises.
- 2.9 The current approval for the premises has expired. However, under the relevant regulations, as long as the application for renewal was received within the 12 months before the expiry of an approval, it is deemed to be ongoing until the application is determined. The renewal then takes effect from the date of the expiry of the previous approval. The application for renewal was received in accordance with this condition.

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

- 3.1 Not applicable as the application meets all the conditions required.

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

- 4.1 The approval for the premise is ongoing and the application was 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 Avenue House.
- 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 and civil partnerships being held in the borough, which can create additional social and economic value. There is a need for more venues catering for bigger wedding and civil partnership ceremonies in the borough, and this venue will cater for bigger events.

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

**Cavendish Banqueting Suite**, Edgware Road London NW9  
**The Haven Bistro and Bar**, 1263-1365 High Road Whetstone, N20  
**The Greenview Venue**, Burtonhole Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7  
**Hendon Hall Hotel**, Ashley Lane, Hendon NW4  
**Hendon Town Hall**, The Burroughs, Hendon NW4  
**Finchley Golf Club**, Nether Court, Frith lane, London NW7  
**Allianz Park**, Greenlands Lanes, Hendon NW4  
**Crowne Moran Hotel** (now Clayton Crown Hotel)  
**Ariana Banqueting Suite**, North London Business Park, Brunswick Park Road, London N11

## **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 The Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions Annex A states that the terms of reference of the General Functions Committee include 'Carry out functions in relation to approving premises for marriages and the formation of civil partnerships under the Marriage Act 1949, the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005.

## **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 venue 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.

## **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 Avenue House 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 There will be communications of the approval of this application on venue's web site and once the approval has been renewed, on London Borough of Barnet

website.

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 Not applicable.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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