



meeting **PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

date **3 November 2003**

agenda item number

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION)

REGISTRATION SERVICE: UPDATE ON APPROVED PREMISES

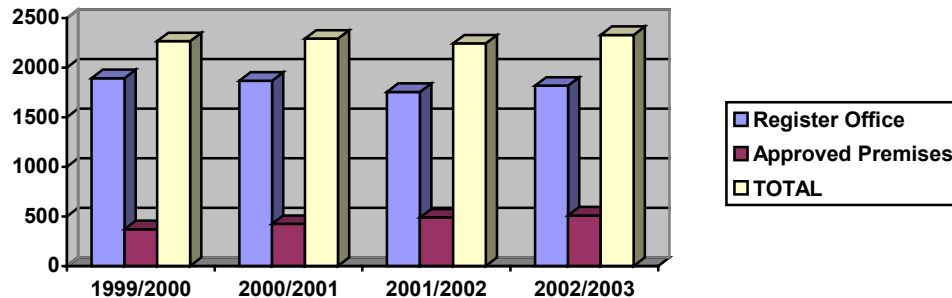
Purpose of the report

1. To advise the Public Protection and General Purposes Committee on the current criteria for Approved Premises for Civil Marriages and the availability and take-up in Nottinghamshire.

Background

2. Since 1995 Nottinghamshire County Council is able to authorise the use of certain appropriate venues to become regular venues for civil marriage ceremonies and issues a 3-year licence for that purpose.
3. To become an Approved Premise a business needs to show that their premises meet strict criteria covering :
 - health, safety and Fire Service checks
 - facilities for the disabled
 - planning consent
 - religious links
 - seemingly and dignified in use, situation, construction, state of repair and furnishings
 - able to comply with the rules of the ceremony
4. Presently there are 33 venues licensed as Approved Premises. They range from hotels and historical buildings (Newstead Abbey and former pumping stations) to sports grounds and County Hall.
5. More than half of the venues are situated in the more southerly part of the County (Rushcliffe, Broxtowe, Gedling and Newark), with one third of the total being located within the Rushcliffe Registration District alone. The most popular venue (by number of marriage ceremonies per year) continues to be Newstead Abbey, former home of Lord Byron. A list of Approved Premises in Nottinghamshire is attached as the Appendix to this report.

6. The fees for Registration staff to attend any of these venues is set by the County Council and currently stands at £190, Monday to Saturday and £260, Sundays and Bank Holidays.
7. Below is a chart showing the level of usage of Approved Premises, with a comparison against Register Office marriage ceremonies.



Statutory and Policy Implications

8. The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of Equal Opportunities, Personnel, Crime and Disorder and users. Where such implications are material they have been brought out in the text of the report.

Strategic Themes

9. The activities outlined in the report will assist the County Council in meeting its strategic objectives.

Head of Legal Services' Comments (IR 17/10/03)

10. The criteria reflect the statutory requirements for the licensing of premises.

Director of Resources Financial Comments (CC/RWK)

11. None.

Recommendations

12. That the Public Protection and General Purposes Committee note the report.

RICHARD HODGE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY PROTECTION)