

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2015

**REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES
ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHARGES AND FEES**

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT:

This report seeks approval for an increase in various fees and charges relating to civil marriages, civil partnership registrations and private citizenship ceremonies.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approve:-

- (i) the following increases in charges and fees payable from 1 April 2015.
 - (a) an increase in the charge for the services of a Registrar to conduct a civil marriage or partnership ceremony or private citizenship ceremony on a Saturday (or on a working weekday between 5pm and 7pm) from £174 to £180; on a Sunday from £238 to £246 and on public holidays from £300 to £311;
 - (b) an increase in the charge for the services of a Registrar to conduct a civil marriage or partnership ceremony or private citizenship ceremony outwith the Registration Service's designated Marriage Rooms within normal office hours from £174 to £180;
 - (c) an increase in the accommodation fee for the use of the ceremony rooms within registration offices from £50 to £52 on the occasions where numbers present exceed 10;
 - (d) an increase in the annual clothing allowance payable to registration staff from £225 to £233; and
- (ii) that with effect from 1 April 2015, increases to the fee payable to Registrars and Assistant Registrars:-
 - (a) conducting a civil marriage or partnership ceremony or private citizenship ceremony on a Saturday (or working weekday between 5pm and 7pm); on a Sunday; and on public holidays; and
 - (b) accompanying Registrars and Assistant Registrars attending ceremonies on a Saturday; on a Sunday; and on public holidays

be in line with agreed Council (LG Scale) pay awards (if any) and with effect from the date of implementation of that pay award.

2. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 3 February 2005, the Resources and Central Services Committee agreed that all fees and charges relevant to the Registration Service (over which the Council has control) be reviewed on an annual basis. Accordingly, the recommendations in Section 1 above have been made by applying a 3.5% increase. Figures have been rounded up or down where appropriate.

The Council has, since 1 April 2011, annually agreed to link any increase in fees payable to Registrars and Assistant Registrars conducting ceremonies outside office hours to the Council (LG Scale) pay awards.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that the increase in fees will result in an increase in income of approximately £2,000. This increase will be partly offset by increased costs of approximately £1,000 from increases in payments made to Registrars and Assistant Registrars in the delivery of their out of hours service, leaving an estimated net increase in income of £1,000 which has been budgeted for in the 2015/16 revenue budget.

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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