

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 26 MAY 2004

CHARGES FOR COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that the Committee approve charges for a new Registration Service, which was contained in the consultation, document "Civil Registration in the 21st Century".

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The response to the consultation document "Civil Registration in the 21st Century" was approved by Committee on 7th February 2000 and new service, a Commitment Ceremony, is now being proposed.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The charges have been developed in accordance with the Accounts Commission publication the Challenge of Charging and take into account factors such as current markets, comparable charges being introduced by other Local Authorities and potential demand.
- 3.2 A Commitment Ceremony is a meaningful and dignified ceremony for adult couples wishing to make a public declaration of life-long commitment. The charges proposed are similar to those agreed on 24th March 2004. These are:

Monday to Friday in office	£100
Saturday in office	£200
Sunday/Public Holiday in office	£250
Monday to Friday outwith office	£135
Saturday outwith office	£235
Sunday/Public Holiday outwith office	£285

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This service will not result in significant expenditure and will produce an income stream.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Some of the proposed changes to Registration outlined in the original consultation document will require legislation. Recent discussions with the General Register Office for Scotland indicated that the new service relating to this report will not require legislation and therefore it is left to Councils to decide whether it should be offered.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This establishment of charges has been carried out in line with the Council policy on charging for services.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This new service extends the range of customer choices and has operated successfully in England for a number of years.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Committee are recommended to:-
- (i) approve the charges outlined in paragraph 3.2 to be implemented from 1 April 2004; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/GC/KH

27th April 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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