

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 8TH NOVEMBER 2006

CONDUCTING CIVIL CEREMONIES

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review the payments made to Registrars for conducting Civil Ceremonies outwith normal working hours.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 (as amended) and the Marriage (Approval of Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2002 came into effect on 10th June 2002. The Community Services Committee of 18th September 2002 agreed the overall licensing process for East Ayrshire for Marriages Outwith Registration Offices.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Since 2002 licensing fee charges have risen from £450 to £550 for period approvals and from £300 to £350 for temporary approvals. Charges for the attendance of a registrar at an approved venue have risen from £180 to £220. However, a payment to Registrars has remained the same at £75 per 3.5 hour period for conducting a ceremony and £55 per 3.5 hour period for assisting at a ceremony. Payments only apply to work outside normal opening hours. The services of an assistant at a ceremony are only required in certain circumstances, for instance at a new venue.
- 3.2 Demand for these ceremonies has risen by 23% since 2003 and is expected to rise even more. Staff have also agreed to conduct ceremonies during Easter and Christmas and outwith normal working hours, as there has been a demand for services during these periods.
- 3.3 Having considered the factors outlined above it is proposed that payments to staff rise from £75 to £85 and £55 to £65 respectively for the second half of this financial year and that these payments are then reviewed annually to relate to the pay award agreed for staff.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated additional expenditure for the remainder of the financial year, based on existing bookings, is a total of £350, however this will be offset by additional income.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. POLICY / COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The service offered has proved very popular with very high customer satisfaction rates. Other local authorities have awarded payment rises on an annual basis; there have been no increases in payments to staff since the inception of the service in 2002. It would be appropriate to link future rates of pay for Registrars attendance at Civil Ceremonies outwith normal opening hours to the national pay award for staff.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) approve revised payments to Registrars outlined in 3.3 of this report;
- (ii) approve the adjustment of future payments in line with the annual pay award; and
- (iii) otherwise note the content of the report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JG/DMV

16th October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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