

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	17 June 2011
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Marriage & Civil Partnership Fees
REPORT NUMBER:	CG/11/076

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report outlines the proposals for an increase to the Marriage and Civil Partnership fees.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the revised Schedule of fees contained in the Appendix to this report commencing 1st August 2011.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposals will generate more income to the Council. However, it should be noted that there has been a gradual decrease in the number of ceremonies being performed.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Property Implications

Arrangements will require to be put in place for the use of and access to the Grant Room in Marischal College. Ongoing discussions are taking place between the Chief Registrar and Facilities Management.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Marriage and Civil Partnership ceremonies are currently conducted by the Registrars Service at the Upper Kirkgate office and the Town House following the closure of the area offices at Bucksburn and Peterculter. The Service moves to Marischal College in June and ceremonies will now be conducted in the Grant Room of the College. The facility will be available Monday to Saturday for ceremonies. It is proposed that the Ceremony fee for the Grant Room on a Saturday be a flat rate of £350 irrespective of the number of guests (maximum 54). The fee will vary for ceremonies on weekdays dependant on the number of guests (see appendix).

- 5.2 It is also proposed to increase the fees for ceremonies in the Town House and in approved Licensed premises. The current pricing structure was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee in 1998. It is notable that despite no increase in fees over the period until now, that our pricing structure is still comparable to the prices charged by Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee for the use of similar premises. The proposed fee structure is contained in the appendix and will now be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 5.3 Members should note that the basic fee of £125 is a statutory requirement and that the Council must provide a facility for ceremonies for a minimum number of guests. This fee is set by the Registrar General.
- 5.4 In the financial year 2010/2011 the number of ceremonies conducted were as follows:-
- a) the Upper Kirkgate Office: 214
 - b) the Town House: 90
 - c) Approved places: 91
- 5.5 The increase in fees reflects the improved facility and the fact that there has been no increase since 1998.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 Public – This report will be of interest to the public, as the recommendation will impact on the cost of the service to be delivered.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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