

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets

Date of Meeting: 25 April 2016
Report of: Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject/Title: Registration Fees to be set by Cheshire East Council for Financial Year 2016/17 and Ceremony Fees for 2017/18 and 2018/19

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This Report seeks authority to agree fee increases across a range of the Registration Service non statutory fees.

2.0 Recommendation:

- a) That the following ceremony fees be agreed, with the equivalent fees also applying to any Renewal of Vows ceremonies :

	<u>Recommended Fees</u>	
	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>
Weekday	£485	£500
Sat & Sun	£590	£605
Bank Holiday	£695	£715
Christmas Day and Boxing Day	£835	£850

- a) That that the Administration fee and second stage payment for ceremonies each remain at their current level of £100 for 2016/17.
- b) That the fees for ceremonies in the Mayor's Reception Room and the Silk Room for 2017/18 be set at £245 for weekdays and £285 for Saturdays.
- c) That the fee for licensing a building for Marriage and Civil Partnership be increased from £1550 to £1650 with effect from 1 April 2016.
- d) That the fees for the Nationality Checking Service for 2016/17 be set at:
- Adult - £75; and
- Child under 18 - £40
- e) That the fees for a Private Citizenship ceremony for 2016/17 be set at:

**Adult £100; and
Child under 18 – nil**

- f) **That the fee for the production of On Demand certificates for 2016/17 remain at £20.**

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In 2009 a full review of the Registration fees was undertaken and since that time fees have been reviewed and determined on an annual basis. In July 2014 a review of ceremony fees was undertaken for the financial years 2014 to 2017.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None identified

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Financial advice has been sought on the proposed fees taking into account the full cost of administering the service. The proposed fees for ceremonies will recover the full cost of ceremonies for the year without generating excess fee income.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The majority of fees collected by the registration service are set by central government. The Council has legal authority under legislation to set fees for non statutory services including:

- Ceremonies at Approved Premises
- Grant of Approval for Approved Premises
- Naming Ceremonies
- Renewal of Vows Ceremonies
- Nationality Checking Service
- Private Citizenship Ceremonies
- Administration Fee for booking ceremonies
- On demand certificate service

- 8.2 The specific power to levy fees for Approved Premises is set out in the Marriages (Approved Premises) Regulations 2011. These state that local authorities may charge an amount determined by the authority as reasonably representing all the costs incurred by it of providing a registrar and superintendent registrar to attend at a solemnization. It is therefore incumbent on the Council to ensure that an assessment of all the costs incurred at a solemnization are made and that the charges levied do not exceed this amount in order to comply with the Regulations.
- 8.3 A specific power to charge was introduced by section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003, which gives relevant authorities the power to charge for discretionary services. Further the new general power of competence contained in the Localism Act 2011 now sits alongside a local authority's power to trade and charge. In common with the LGA 2003 powers, charging for things done in the exercise of the general power of competence is not a power to make a profit from those activities.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 No risks have been identified.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The background to the recommendations is set out in the attached appendix.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Lindsey Parton

Designation: Registration Service and Business Manager

Tel No: 01270 686477

Email: Lindsey.parton@cheshireeast.gov.uk