

Name of project/proposal	Increase in Ceremony Registration Fees from April 2017
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Department	Culture, Communities and Business Services
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### **Description of Service / Policy**

Hampshire Registration Service offers a variety of ceremonies including civil marriage and civil partnerships. Death bed marriages and registration of marriage in religious buildings fees are set by the General Register Office and are statutory and are therefore unable to be set or changed locally. The fees for other ceremonies have been reviewed and adjusted to take into account the cost recovery and to be more in line with other local authorities.

Geographical impact\* All Hampshire

### **Description of proposed change**

Raising fees for ceremonies delivered in Hampshire Approved Venues and Register Office ceremony rooms from 1st April 2017, with further increases taking place annually up to 2019/20. Increases vary across the range of ceremony options by up to 12%. Fees will be reviewed in October each year with any further adjustments to take effect from January the following year. Previously published fees will be honoured for customers who have already prepaid for ceremonies during 2017/18.

### **Engagement and consultation**

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? Yes

No specific Hampshire wide consultation has been carried out on this proposal, however, the County Council carried out a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2017 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing council tax, using reserves and making changes to the way in which services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in September 2017.

When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific Hampshire wide consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

## ***Impacts of the proposed change***

This impact assessment covers Service users

### **Statutory considerations**

	<b>Impact</b>
Age	Neutral
Disability	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral
Race	Neutral
Religion and Belief	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Gender	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral

### **Other policy considerations**

Poverty Impact	Low Any increase in fees charged to the public will undoubtedly impact on those customers working within a tight budget. It is important to be aware that these will be maintained. Fees are 'one off' charges for customers and not a regular burden or requirement for them throughout their normal life. However there are a range of options available at different rates depending on the day of the ceremony and type and size of venue. The fees are suitable for a range of customer budgets which will be maintained. There is also a facility for a basic statutory marriage ceremony in Basingstoke, Winchester, Fareham or Aldershot Register Offices costing £50.
Rurality	Neutral

## ***Additional Information***

Fee increases were identified via a full cost profiling exercise, identifying areas where the service was not achieving full cost recovery as well as benchmarking against fees charged by other local authorities within the South East region to ensure commercial viability. The benchmarking exercise is carried out annually with Registration Authorities within the SE Region including large authorities such as Kent and Surrey.