

Marriage Licence Renewal/Increase in Booking Charge

To: Meeting of the Town Hall Committee

From: Clair Helen Davis, Deputy Town Clerk

Date: Tuesday, 6th February at 7 pm

1. Reason for Report

To consider whether to renew the council's Marriage Licence.

To consider an increase of wedding charges if to renew.

2. Background

The Marriage Licence purchased 6th July 2021 at a cost of £1,055.

Over the last 3 years there has been a total of six weddings taken place in the Council's Chambers. The cost of these were July at £150 this was before the increase, April £500 this is the package deal that includes the Chambers and Main Hall, May, July and September were £200 each.

The council to decide if it is a viable option going forward.

The licence bought in 2020 expires 11th December 2024.

3. Financial Implications

The cost to renew the licence to enable the council to hold marriages and civil partnerships is £1,180.

The total profit produced from the six weddings to date is £405 taking the £1055 (total) minus £1460 (the cost of the licence)

To consider if the council wish to continue with the licence, an increase in charge needs to apply. To consider the people hours the Officers spend to move the furniture to accommodate the wedding and for councillors to agree to open the Chambers on weekends when office staff are not in work.

The council has recently appointed a Community Engagement Officer, who as part of their role will be marketing the Town Hall and may result in more weddings.

4. Recommendations

For the Town Hall Committee to decide to renew the licence and/or increase the charges.

Conclusion

To summarise the renewal is not due until December so may be prudent to look at the figures again in October/November when the Community Engagement Officer has been in post 8 months and if there is a significant rise. The council may also wish to consider keeping it as a service that provides for the residents and beyond to showcase the building a respected and prominent asset.