

Marriage Licence Renewal and an Increase in Charges

To: Meeting of the Town Hall Committee

From: Clair Helen Davis, Deputy Town Clerk

Date: Tuesday, 3rd September 2024

Reason for Report

To consider if the Council should renew the Marriage Licence and increase the charges along with a higher cost for weekend weddings.

Introduction

The Council Chambers has over the last three years had a total of eight weddings, and the charm of the chambers has impressed them all.

The cost of £200 is well below what the Council could be charging.

I have researched five Town Halls and tried to keep them all approximately the same in style the average is £367, and all charge a weekend premium the average being £686.

The renewal date is 11th December 2024.

Financial Implications

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

The total cost of income produced from the eight weddings £1,600.

To consider if the council wish to continue with the licence, at the current charge and the implications put upon all Officers with a lot of administrative time and of course the set up required.

I believe that marketing the Council Chambers more widely would increase the revenue tremendously.

It is worth noting that if these charges were implemented in these three years the revenue would have been at least £2800 (taking the cheaper charge Monday to Friday).

Recommendations

It would be a shame to cease offering weddings and civil partnerships at the Town Hall, it is in the words of many a couple a lovely and charming space, so that said I recommend to the council to renew the wedding Licence and charge at the higher amount of £350 Monday to Friday and the higher amount of £650 for weekends also by increasing the marketing using such a great advocate in Tom Hope this could really up the amount of weddings.

Clair Helen Davis
Deputy Town Clerk
17th July 2024