

<b>Notice of:</b>	Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure
<b>Decision Number:</b>	PH29/2021
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Maria Kirkland, Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Leisure
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	25 February 2021

## FEES AND CHARGES – LIFE EVENTS 2021/2022

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider and determine the fees and charges for the Registrars and Bereavement services for the financial year 2021/2022.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the fees and charges for Registrars as outlined in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, excluding those set by the General Registrar's Office.
- 2.2 To note the fees and charges outlined in Appendix A set nationally by the General Registrar's Office and included for completeness.
- 2.3 To agree to have no increase in the fees and charges for Bereavement Services as outlined in Appendix B with effect from the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 2.4 To agree that the fees agreed in 2.1 and 2.3 above can be reduced from these rates by the Director for Governance and Partnerships, for one off events or a set period of time, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To enable both services to continue to deliver the high quality services and cover the costs of the services provided.
- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget. Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 Alternative options are for the fees agreed for 2020/21 to remain in force or for different levels of increase to fees and charges to be applied, however these options would not reflect the costs of providing the service.

**5.0 Council Priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council Priorities are both:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

“ Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**6.0 Background Information**

6.1 The attached schedule (Appendix A) outlines proposals for revised fees and charges for the Registrar’s service, including fees for the Wedding Chapel (Festival House) and approved venues for 2021/2022. The proposed fees for ceremonies in the Wedding Chapel are increased to continue to reflect the actual charge of holding a ceremony at Festival House and bring them in line with other similar venues.

6.2 From ‘Note 1’ on the attached schedule (Appendix A) are the fees set by the General Registrar’s Office (GRO), these are statutory fees which are set nationally by GRO and a number of these have not been reviewed for a number of years. The Council cannot alter these fees. These fees are included for information only and to ensure completeness.

6.3 The attached schedule (Appendix B) outlines a proposal to have no increase for the Bereavement Services function fees and charges, reflecting the current year to date.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

Appendix A – Proposed Registrars fees and charges 2021/2022.

Appendix B – Proposed Bereavement Services fees and charges 2021/2022.

**8.0 Legal considerations:**

8.1 The proposed fees aim to cover employee costs, resources and time. The proposed fees are either based on proposed resource implications and also statutory charges for certain ceremonies.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The charges proposed reflect the cost of providing the services and these are also in line with other similar charges from Local Authorities

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Not meeting the income targets set within the budget based on the increased fees and charges.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 An Equalities Analysis has been undertaken relating to the introduction of these changes.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations :**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

13.1 The General Registrar's Office ensures that all fees and charges are cost neutral and a number of consultation exercises have been carried out nationally to ensure this is maintained.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.

**15.0 Key decision information:**

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: N/A

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**16.0 Call-in information:**

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: N/A Date approved: N/A

**18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

18.1 None.

**19.0 Executive decision:**

19.1 The Cabinet Member agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To approve the fees and charges for Registrars as outlined in Appendix A with effect from the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, excluding those set by the General Registrar's Office.
2. To note the fees and charges outlined in Appendix A set nationally by the General Registrar's Office and included for completeness.
3. To agree to have no increase in the fees and charges for Bereavement Services as outlined in Appendix B with effect from the 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
4. To agree that the fees agreed in 1 and 3 above can be reduced from these rates by the Director for Governance and Partnerships, for one off events or a set period of time, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

**20.0 Date of Decision:**

20.1 26 February 2021

**21.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

21.1 To enable both services to continue to deliver the high quality services and cover the costs of the services provided.

**22.0 Date Decision published:**

22.1 25 February 2021

**23.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

23.1

**24.0 Call-in:**

24.1

**25.0 Notes:**

25.1