

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET1 December 2016Report by the Deputy Chief ExecutiveCORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENTCHARGING FOR SERVICES 2017/18**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcomes of the charging for services exercise carried out within the Corporate and Community Services Department and to submit the fees and charges for 2017/18.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-
- (a) Note that the statutory fees are set by National Records of Scotland (NRS) in November each year; and
  - (b) Increase all non-statutory fees and charges by 2.6%, the current inflation rate, for 2017/18.

**IMPACT OF CHARGES FOR 2017/18**

3. The charges set in previous years have allowed the registration service to provide a comparable service to other local authorities and to attract marriages which generate an income.

**DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES FOR CHARGING**

4. Most charges for the Registration Service are nationally prescribed by the NRS although the Council has some discretion over the non-statutory elements.

5. At this stage there is no confirmed increase in statutory fees for Marriage Notices but further announcements may be made after the Annual Registration Conference in November.

**SERVICES REVIEWED AND PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2017/18**

6. The closure of neighbouring authorities' registration offices, particularly in East Kilbride, has resulted in a modest increase in the number of registrations carried out in East Renfrewshire.

7. New procedures under the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act have been introduced since May 2015. This has resulted in an additional cost to service provision with the need for standby cover arrangements to be introduced at weekends. This service is not chargeable to customers but can cause delay in the registration and lengthen the appointment time.

8. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the increase of all non-statutory fees and charges by 2.6% for 2017/18 which is the current inflation rate.

## **IMPLICATION OF THE PROPOSALS**

9. Based on the recommendations, it is estimated that the proposed changes in charges will generate approximately £1,379 additional income from the Registration Services in 2017/18. This estimate is based on registrations remaining at the same levels.

10. Non statutory fees in East Renfrewshire have historically been very competitive with other local authorities. The increase in charges ensures that we remain comparable with other local authorities while, where possible, recovering the full cost of the service.

11. There are no equalities implications of the proposal to increase non statutory fees.

## **CONSULTATION**

12. The Registration Service will compare fees with other local authorities.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

13. The Registration Service operates to statutory charges and endeavours to recover close to the full cost of the service. However, the introduction of death certification has meant an additional cost of standby cover is being incurred.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (a) Note that the statutory fees are set by National Records of Scotland (NRS) in November each year; and
- (b) Increase all non-statutory fees and charges by 2.6%, the current inflation rate, for 2017/18.

Deputy Chief Executive

December 2016

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