

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3700

Increase to ceremony fees and increases in line with market forces and inflation

Decision maker/s	Cllr Manda Rigby, Cabinet Member for Communications and Community
The Issue	To obtain agreement to the ceremony fees for legal and discretionary ceremonies provided by the Registration Service to be reviewed annually
Decision Date	14 th April 2026
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that these fees will be reviewed annually by the Head of the Registration Service and the Proper Officer for Registration Services who will continue to review in light of the UK Consumer Price Index, (CPI) cost recovery and market forces for a period of five years from the end of the financial year 2027/28; and has approved the fees for the registration ceremonies for 2027/8.
Rationale for decision	<p>1.1 Unlike statutory fees and charges Local Authorities are not constrained in how they calculate and apply fees and charges for discretionary services they provide. This means that they can include the full cost of all aspects of service provision. The Service last reviewed it fees and charges in April 2025. In light of the ongoing Printed on recycled paper financial pressures facing the Council, the Service intends to increase fees in line with CPI, cost recovery and market forces, and review these annually on an upwards basis. The annual review allows for comparable and competitive fee setting – see Appendix 1.</p> <p>1.2 The current forecasted average rate of CPI for the UK is calculated at 3.5-4%. In 2025-2026 fess were increased below the CPI and market forces by an average of 2.25%. The proposed increases for 2027-2028 and going forward reflect the relevant CPI, market forces and cost recovery. Benchmarking of fees against similar and relevant district will be considered.</p> <p>1.3 Bath and North East Council offers a smaller ceremony in the Guildhall for six people at a fee of £270 which will be reviewed annually. This provides further options for couples.</p> <p>1.4 The Service income remains dependent upon ceremony fees and associated fees.</p>
Financial and budget implications	This is an update to fees for existing services; no additional resources are required to implement the recommendations. This review is needed to reflect the cost of the services provided and to support existing revenue budgets. Any marked economic and/or budgetary change negatively impacting on service fees and changes will be reported back to the relevant cabinet member

Issues considered	A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance. Providing local ceremony venues for local people minimises the travel to ceremonies. The main location of the Guildhall is a sustainable location with many public transport routes.
Consultation undertaken	This report has been cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Review of report and benchmarking appendix
Other options considered	Not increasing fees has budget implications.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	none
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	none

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	 Councillor Manda Rigby Cabinet Member for Communications and Community Bath and North East Somerset Council
Date of Signature	14 April 2026
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	