
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	26 March 2019
Report By:	Chief Financial Officer	Report No:	FIN/34/19/AP/FM
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Subject:	Marriages within Inverclyde Council Premises – Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on marriage ceremonies within Council premises.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's original Wedding Suite in West Stewart Street closed in October 2017 with the Provost's Room in Greenock Municipal Buildings being approved by the Committee to be the temporary designated venue for Marriage Ceremonies. In September 2017 the Committee agreed that the new designated Marriage Suite be the Provost's Room located in the Port Glasgow Town Hall and this was refurbished and is now open for use.
- 2.2 Following refurbishment, the new designated Marriage Suite within Port Glasgow Town Hall opened officially on time on 1 August 2018 and has proven to be popular as well as receiving positive comments about the look and feel of the room.
- 2.3 Bookings for the new facility have been increasing and it is hoped the recent publicity will raise awareness and show the high quality venue the Council now operates.
- 2.4 Alternative locations for ceremonies are becoming increasingly popular and once refurbishment works are completed, the former District Court will provide a further facility available for use.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes the successful implementation of the new Marriage Suite in the Port Glasgow Town Hall.
- 3.2 That the Committee notes that the former District Court, once renovations are complete, will become an additional venue of choice for marriages in Inverclyde.
- 3.3 That the Committee notes the co-operation of Inverclyde Leisure staff during the implementation phase and their ongoing support in supporting marriages delivered by the Council.

Alan Puckrin
Chief Financial Officer

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the Office Asset Management Plan the Council's Marriage Suite in West Stewart Street closed in October 2017. The Council has a legal requirement to be able to provide a wedding "Celebrant" and to provide a venue from within its "Registration Office". In June 2017 the Committee approved that the Provost's Room in the Greenock Municipal Buildings would become the interim designated marriage facility for the Council.
- 4.2 The Provost's Room proved to be a success with 7 ceremonies taking place there between the period 1 October 2017 to 31 January 2018 compared to 9 for the same period in 2016/17 in West Stewart Street.
- 4.3 The Committee agreed in September 2017 that the Provost's Room in Port Glasgow Town Hall become the designated Marriage Suite for the Council from the Summer of 2018 and also agreed to an estimated investment of £25,000 to renovate the room which included replacing the ceiling, new lighting, furniture and soft furnishings. A photograph of the renovated marriage suite can be seen at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The Provost's Room became operational for wedding ceremonies from 1 August 2018 and has proven to be popular, with 7 ceremonies taking place between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2019 which is in line with the number of ceremonies conducted at the previous venues in West Stewart Street and the Greenock Provost's Room. Inverclyde Leisure have been very supportive in assisting with opening the venue, cleaning after Services and assisting guests on arrival; they were also of great assistance during the renovation period all of which is much appreciated. Many positive comments have been made by bridal parties about the look and feel of the room.
- 4.5 As marriages can now take place any location of choice, even the couple's home, ceremonies in external venues are becoming increasingly popular. The table below shows the number of marriages carried out by the Council's Registration Team in the Council's Marriage Facilities and those conducted in external venues. In September 2017 the Committee also agreed that following planned refurbishment the former District Court would be promoted as an alternative location for marriage ceremonies. The following table shows the number of ceremonies conducted by the Registration Team in the last 3 Calendar Years.

4.6

Civil Marriages	Inverclyde Council Marriage Facility	External Venue
2016	39	40
2017	42	36
2018	23	41

5.0 GOING FORWARD

- 5.1 Whilst the Provost's Room in Port Glasgow is proving to be a popular choice for couples to be married it is hoped that recent publicity promoting the Marriage Suite and showcasing the sumptuous appearance of the Wedding Suite will attract further couples to use this venue.
- 5.2 The Provost's Room in Port Glasgow also has an advantage for couples wanting to have their Ceremony, Wedding Meal and Evening Reception in the one location by utilising the facilities provided by Inverclyde Leisure in the Port Glasgow Town Hall.
- 5.3 The refurbishment of the Former District Court in Greenock is nearing completion and could prove to be of interest to couples who wish a unique venue with historical interest. The building is currently under renovation works which are expected to be complete by the end of March 2019. Using this venue would also allow couples wishing to have their Ceremony, Wedding Meal and Evening Reception in the one location by utilising the facilities in the Greenock Town Hall.

- 5.4 As previously reported to the Committee, disabled access to the former District Court is not straight forward and as discussed at the Committee previously, access would be, with cooperation from Inverclyde Leisure, via the Greenock Town Hall. Where someone has mobility issues it would be possible via prior arrangement for access to be via the Customer Service Centre (CSC) as long as this was whilst the CSC was open.
- 5.5 Inverclyde's Registration Team takes a pride in delivering personalised tailored services for couples on their special day and is in a strong position to continue to be able to deliver a memorable and high quality experience to couples wishing to be married in Inverclyde.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance - none

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

- 6.2 **Legal** – there are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 6.3 **Human Resources** – there are no human resources implications arising from this report.
- 6.4 **Equalities**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

- 6.5 **Repopulation** – there are no repopulation issues arising from this report.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS - none

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - none

