

## OPEN AGENDA

Copy No:

No: 23/2018

### Memorandum for Executive Council

**SUBJECT**

#### Marriage Regulations 2018

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Social and Community  
Development Committee

**ADVICE SOUGHT**

- 1. Council are asked to consider and recommend for enactment the Marriage Regulations 2018 including the proposed fees.**
- 2. To agree in principle that an application should be made to register Plantation House as a venue for civil marriages.**

**BACKGROUND &  
CONSIDERATIONS**

1. The Marriage Ordinance 2017 was passed in December 2017. It contains provisions enabling civil marriages to take place in locations other than the Castle. Marriages may now take place in premises that have been registered for that purpose and in a public place agreed by the Registrar.
2. The proposed regulations are made under s. 33 of the Marriage Ordinance and prescribe the process and the matters to be taken into account when a request is made to register premises or to hold a wedding in a public place.
3. Members of the public wanting a non-religious ceremony will then have a choice as to where to get married. Some people are also likely to want to get married at a local beauty spot.
4. These regulations came before ExCo on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 when concerns were raised that the proposed fees in Schedule 2 had not received adequate scrutiny by the Social and Community Development Committee (SCDC). The matter was deferred so that SCDC could consider the fees.
5. SCDC considered the fees listed in Schedule 2 at a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. It approved the proposed fees subject to 2 amendments. These are item 6: the fee for a Governor's Licence which was approved as £75 (instead of £100); and, item 6(a)(iii): the fee payable by a person who has been on the island for at least 90 days for contracting a marriage at a place approved by the Registrar which was approved as £100 (instead of £70).

## OPEN AGENDA

6. SCDC also discussed the principle of whether an application should be made for Plantation House to be approved for the solemnization of civil marriages. There was general support for the principle and no objections were raised but members felt that this was a decision that should be taken by ExCo.
- FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** 7. There are no additional financial implications from enacting these Regulations.
- ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS** 8. It is expected that hotels and other suitable venues will develop their businesses to hold weddings.
- PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT** 9. The Regulations expand the choices available to people wanting to get married in a non-religious setting and should therefore have a positive public/social impact.
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT** 10. The potential environmental impact on any proposed location should be considered by the Registrar-General prior to approval, in accordance with Regulation 3(1).
- PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT** 11. The SCDC considered the Regulations on 14.01.18 and recommended them for consideration by ExCo as soon as possible.
- PUBLIC REACTION** 12. Positive or no public reaction is anticipated.
- PUBLICITY** 13. In addition to publishing the regulations, mention will be made in the Ex Co report and associated broadcast. A press release will also be arranged.
- SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OPEN AGENDA ITEM** 14. None.
15. This item is recommended for the open agenda.

**AG**

Corporate Services  
The Castle  
Jamestown

25.04.18