



**CORPORATE SCRUTINY SERVICES  
REVIEW BOARD  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

# ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services  
Report author: Bernard Fenton, Head of Customer Management

## **Impact of COVID-19 on the Registration Service for Derby**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 To detail the impact of COVID-19 on the income generated by the Registration Service for Derby between 1 April 2020 and 30 November 2020.
- 1.2 To forecast the impact on the annual income the Registration Service will generate in 2020-21.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the lost income for the Registration Services as a result of implementing COVID-19 legislation and measures.
- 2.2 To fund the lost income from the COVID Emergency fund.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 The consequences of implementing COVID-19 legislation and measures has had a significant impact on the income generated by the Registration Service.
- 3.2 The loss of income for the Registration Service is a direct result of changes in legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Supporting information**

- 4.1 When the national lockdown was introduced in March 2020, the Government issued instructions to each Registration Service in England and Wales via the General Register Office, a department of the Home Office.

Specifically, the following restrictions were introduced in March 2020:

- Birth registrations were stopped
- Legislation was introduced to allow death registrations to be completed remotely, primarily over the telephone, and
- Marriage and civil partnership ceremonies were stopped

- 4.2 In July 2020, restrictions for weddings and civil partnerships were eased, with attendance limited to much smaller numbers and subsequently 147 wedding and civil partnerships ceremonies were conducted. Ceremonies were halted again for a short time in November 2020.
- 4.2 As result of these restrictions and the general uncertainty that COVID-19 has brought many couples decided to either cancel ceremonies, or postpone them to a future date; which in turn has had a significant impact on the income generated by the Registration Service in 2020-21.

As at 30 November 2020 this has resulted in a loss of wedding and civil ceremony income of £111.8k, a 72.5% reduction on 2019-20 levels of income.

The following table compares and details that lost income.

<b>Income Stream</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Income loss</b>
Notice of Marriage fees	£35,000	£12,670	£22,330
Advanced Marriage Fees	£199,289	£29,674	£89,525
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£154,289</b>	<b>£42,434</b>	<b>£111,855</b>

- 4.3 The restrictions on ceremonies caused a number of couples to cancel or postpone their weddings or civil ceremonies beyond the 12 months the Notice of Marriage (NOM) remains valid, at which point a second NOM is required at a cost of £35.
- The Council took the decision to waive the NOM fees in these circumstances, at a cost to date of £3.0k
- 4.4 COVID-19 restrictions have also had a smaller impact on the income generated from the production and issuing of certificates and copy certificates. As at 30 November this has resulted in a loss of income of £6.5k, a 15.4% reduction on 2019-20 levels of income.
- 4.5 As at 30 November 2020, the total loss in income for the Registration Service is £121.3k, a 61.8% reduction on 2019-20 levels of income.
- 4.6 In 2019-20 the income generated through certificate production and conducting wedding and civil ceremonies was £299k. Applying a 61.8% reduction in income would result in a potential full year loss in income of £185k.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

5.1 Regular communication about the availability of Registration Services were published.

## **Other options**

6.1 The impact of the loss of income would need to be absorbed within Council budgets.

## **Financial and value for money issues**

7.1 The forecast loss of income in the Registration Service for 2020-21 is £185k.

## **Legal implications**

8.1 The Registration Service complied with the COVID-19 legislation issued by Government.

## **Climate implications**

9.1 There are no climate implications arising from this report.

## **Other significant implications**

10.1 None arising from this report.

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>	Magda Cisek, Principal Accountant	
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Andy Brammall, Director, Digital and Customer Management	
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Alison Parkin, Director of Financial Services	
<b>Other(s)</b>		

**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:**