

People and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	11 October 2016
Officer	Director for Adult and Community Services
Subject of Report	Registration Services
Executive Summary	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>The Policy Development Panel met for the 4th time on 8 September 2016.</p> <p><u>Update</u></p> <p>The Panel meeting on 6 April supported proposals for public consultation. Public consultation on the following proposals was held between 16 June and 11 August 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Withdrawal of Tell us Once for Births Service.(ii) Introduction of the Nationality Checking Service.(iii) Reduction in the number of registration offices from 11 to 5 and locating them at Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Ferndown.(iv) Reduction in the number of ceremony rooms from 8 to 3 and what factors were important in determining their location.(v) Introduction of a two stage marriage process.

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	<p>(vi) Charging a full cost recovery fee for marriages.</p> <p>527 responses to the consultation were received</p> <p>The Panel is of the view that it is appropriate to recommend to the People and Communities Committee in due course that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Tell Us Once Service for Births is withdrawn (ii) The Nationality Checking Service is piloted. (iii) A two stage marriage process is introduced. (iv) A full cost recovery fee is charged for marriages. <p>The Panel decided that it wished to give further consideration to the future location of offices. It noted that there may be a cost pressure in maintaining the current number of offices but recognised the importance of giving further consideration to the retention of more than five. The Panel asked officers to provide further information about options and access to the service and as to how costs may be met through new approaches to income. The next meeting of the Panel has been arranged for 31 October 2016.</p> <p>A final report and recommendations of the Panel will therefore be provided to the People and Communities Overview Committee on 11 January 2017.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment:</p>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>The draft impact assessment has identified potential impact on access to services for people living in rural areas and on people with lower incomes. Consultation responses have equated impact on older people with issues of access to public transport.</p> <p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>Evidence has been used in the work of the panel, including the results of the public consultation.</p> <p>Budget: Registration Service is self-funding. Potential national change in relation to who can conduct marriage ceremonies may have an impact on the income receive by the County Council. The Panel is considering budget issues.</p>

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	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>Offices are in some places in shared buildings with District and Town Councils and proposals for change are of interest to these organisations.</p>
Recommendation	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>Note the update provided on the work of the panel.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>To provide a progress report to Committee on the work of its Policy Development Panel.</p>
Appendices	<p>None.</p>
Background Papers	<p>None.</p>
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