

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To recommence weddings within Herefordshire
Date of decision:	02.07.2020
Decision maker:	Director of Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation updated 2 June 2020 Appendix 1 Economy & Place SA57 – Bereavement Services including Coroners and Registration Services
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Emergency consultation between senior officers and cabinet member for Housing, regulatory services and community safety. Details of this change will be communicated to all stakeholders.
Decision made:	To recommence weddings within Herefordshire
Reasons for decision:	<p>Following changes from the Governments guidance that wedding of up to 30 people can now take place from 4th July 2020.</p> <p>Measures have been introduced to ensure that the ceremony process can take place in a controlled way in order to both protect Council employees and the wedding party. Both risk assessment and safe system of work have been signed off by Health and Safety.</p> <p>The size of the wedding party at the Town Hall will limited to 10 people due to the size of the ceremony room.</p> <p>Private venues across Herefordshire have been contacted to supply the registration service with their own wedding plans and risk assessments going forward.</p> <p>The bride and groom will receive information regarding the new process in place and what they can expect on the day.</p> <p>Council website updated with relevant processes – this will include what to expect during a visit to the Town Hall, who may attend for an appointment and measures that are in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The risk of continuing to suspend wedding ceremonies will be contrary to Government advice and the Authority would not be meeting its legal obligations for civil marriage ceremonies and civil partnership formations be allowed to recommence in England providing certain conditions around social distancing are met.</p> <p>During the period of suspension of wedding services the council could have expected to receive circa £67,000 revenue.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and	None

rejected:	
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Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed:
Richard Ball, Director Economy and Place

Date: 2 July 2020