

Report – Port Health & Environmental Services Committee

Update to the Scheme of Delegations: Marriage Licensing

To be presented on Thursday, 9th March 2017

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City
of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

Under the Marriage Act 1949, the Court of Common Council has authority to grant licences to premises for the solemnisation of marriages. This function has previously been delegated to the Town Clerk. However, all other aspects of registration (births, deaths, marriages) are delegated to the Director of Community and Children's Services.

It is therefore proposed to update the Scheme of Delegations such that responsibility for marriage premises licensing is also delegated to the Director of Community and Children's Services, rather than the Town Clerk. This will regularise all marriage registration and licensing functions into a single Department.

In addition, the current reference in the Scheme referring to the delegation being under Section 29 of the Local Government Act is incorrect and should refer to the Registration Service Act 1953. Accordingly, it is also proposed to update the Scheme of Delegations to correct this reference.

Should the Court approve these proposals, paragraph 28 of the delegations to the Director of Children's and Community Services would be amended to read*:

"To act as the Proper Officer for the London City Registration District (Registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages, etc.) pursuant to ~~Section 29 of the Local Government Act 1972,~~ the Registration Service Act 1953 and to approve premises under the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005."

*NB - (additions highlighted with italics and underlined, deletions struck through).

RECOMMENDATION

The Court of Common Council is **recommended** to approve amendments to the Scheme of Delegations such that:-

- authority to grant licences to premises for the solemnisation of marriages moves from the Town Clerk to the Director of Children's and Community Services; and
- the wording within the Scheme be updated to refer to the correct legislation.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 24th day of January 2017.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Wendy Mead, OBE
Chairman, Port Health and Environmental Services Committee