| Report on | Appointment of Approved Humanist Celebrant |
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| Date of Meeting | 8 November 2018 |
| Reporting Officer | Marissa Canavan |
| Contact Officer | Sandra Matchett-Gabr |

## Is this report restricted for confidential business?

If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon

| Yes |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| No | $X$ |


| $\mathbf{1 . 0}$ | Purpose of Report |
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| 1.1 | To inform of the legal requirement for The General Register Office to direct the <br> Council to approve appointment of Humanist Celebrants to conduct humanist led <br> civil ceremonies. |
| $\mathbf{2 . 0}$ | Background |
| 2.1 | After a judicial review of the current legislation 2003 Marriage Order, GRO was <br> required to broaden the interpretation of Article 31 (3) of the 2003 Marriage Order <br> to include the appointment by Councils of Humanist Celebrants to conduct civil <br> ceremonies on a temporary basis. |
| $\mathbf{3 . 0}$ | Main Report <br> 3.1GRO in the short term have amended procedures to facilitate the approval of <br> humanist celebrants by:- <br> - Using a new version of the marriage notice form <br> - GRO determining the suitability of humanist celebrants for each wedding and <br> - The Council appointing the approved humanist as a temporary celebrant for the <br> marriage detailed in the notice of marriage form |
| 3.2 | The Registrar Sandra Matchett-Gabr will be nominated to receive details of the <br> approved Humanist Celebrant from GRO and notify the Celebrant of their <br> appointment by letter. The Celebrant will not be an employee of the Council. |
| 4.0 | Other Considerations |
| 4.1 | Financial, Human Resources \& Risk Implications |
| Financial: <br> N/A |  |
| Human: <br> N/A |  |


|  | Risk Management: <br> $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ |
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| 4.2 | Screening \& Impact Assessments |
|  | Equality \& Good Relations Implications: <br> $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ |
|  | Rural Needs Implications: <br> $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ |
| 5.0 | Recommendation(s) |
| 5.1 | $\mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{A}$ |
| 6.0 | Documents Attached \& References |
| 6.1 | Letter from Registrar General to Chief Executive from GRO outlining change in law <br> regarding allowing humanists to conduct civil ceremonies |

