

## **EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

### **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES 23 MARCH 2011**

#### **GUILDHALL MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS LICENCE - UPDATE**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the application for the Guildhall to be licensed for marriages and civil partnerships.

##### **2. AN UPDATE**

- 2.1 The meeting of this Committee on 26 January received a report which detailed the arrangements surrounding an application for the licensing of the Guildhall for marriages and civil partnerships, and recommended the Executive that such an application be submitted
- 2.2 The application form and accompanying papers were submitted on 21 February, with a Public Notice appearing in the Express and Echo on Wednesday 23 February. If no objections to the granting of the licence are received during the period of 21 days from that notice it is hoped that a licence will be granted in the very near future and will remain in force for 3 years from that date.
- 2.3 Arrangements are now being put in place for the necessary promotional material to be produced with a view to being in a position to start taking bookings for any ceremonies from May 2011. To date, we have received two initial enquiries.
- 2.4 Members are reminded that in order for cars to be allowed to drop off and pick up those taking part in the ceremonies, an amendment to the Road Traffic Order was needed, and that Devon County Council had indicated that as there were other changes to the current High Street Order, those relating to this proposal would be included at that time.
- 2.5 Whilst a verbal assurance has been obtained from Devon County Council that the necessary amendments will be in place by the end of April 2011, there has yet to be any formal confirmation of the necessary amendments being implemented. Without such a change to the Road Traffic Order, “wedding cars” would not be allowed to attend the Guildhall – clearly, those making a booking would wish some certainty about whether this will be permitted.

##### **3. RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Committee Resources notes the current situation along the lines detailed in this report.

**HEAD OF CORPORATE CUSTOMER SERVICES**

**CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE**