

1 USE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES AS CIVIL MARRIAGE VENUES - (AN160-2005)

Under The Marriage (Approval of Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2002, local authorities can register a wide range of venues as Civil Marriage venues. Dundee already has 18 such officially licensed/ designated venues ranging from hotels, to historic ships and football grounds, to Council premises such as Broughty Castle, Mills Observatory and various rooms in the City Chambers. The object of the legislation was to increase the choices of venues available to couples planning a Civil Marriage and the statistics already show that there has been an increase in the numbers of Civil Marriages held in Dundee since the 2002 Act.

A request has now been received for permission for a marriage ceremony to be held on Dundee Law and it is proposed that the Law and other park/open space venues be designated as Civil Marriage venues. Locations in Council ownership can be so designated simply by notifying the Registrar General for Scotland. It would still be necessary for couples to obtain the permission of the Dundee Contract Services Committee, so that, for example, account could be taken of other events on the same dates etc. Permission would not be granted for erection of substantial temporary shelters such as marquees, or for the holding of receptions, consumption of alcohol etc. Availability of these locations could be publicised through the Registrars web pages on the Council's website, and designation in this way would avoid couples having to obtain one-off 'licences' at a cost of £100, while encouraging Civil Marriages in Dundee. Venues which could prove attractive for this purpose include Dundee Law, Camperdown Park, Templeton Woods etc and it is recommended that authority be granted for the Director to decide on any other locations to be so designated in liaison with the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services).

It is also recommended that the matter of granting/refusing future requests for use of these locations be delegated to the Director or nominee and that the Scheme of Delegated Powers be amended accordingly.