

**ANGUS COUNCIL****RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2004****REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION****ABSTRACT**

This report updates members on the results of the previous Committee decision to amalgamate the existing 6 registration districts into one composite Angus Registration District. An update is also provided on the operation of the registration service since withdrawal of registration facilities at Carnoustie, Brechin and Kirriemuir from 1 January 2004.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to note the situation after 7 months in respect of the concentration of registration facilities in Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

At its meeting on 4 September 2003, the Resources and Central Services Committee approved Report No 1007/03 which recommended, inter alia, the amalgamation of existing 6 registration districts to one single district, with Registrars' Offices in Arbroath, Forfar and Montrose. Special arrangements were, however, made to provide a facility for informants unable to travel, to register deaths in Brechin, Carnoustie and Kirriemuir, because of the short period allowed for this process during a potentially stressful time.

**3. PRESENT SITUATION**

In the 7 month period to 31 July 2004, 1371 entries have been made in the relevant registers at the 3 offices. Of these, 316 (23%) are entries which would probably have been made at the offices from which registration facilities have been withdrawn (80 Carnoustie, 138 Brechin, 98 Kirriemuir).

In the same period, 14 death registrations (2% of all death registrations) have been made (13 Carnoustie, 1 Brechin) by way of registrars attending at the local ACCESS office to provide a service to informants who said they could not make travel arrangements.

One of the benefits flowing from the amalgamation of the registration districts is the greater flexibility afforded to informants to attend any Registrars Office within the new Angus Registration District. To date, 65 informants have registered events at an office which is not the nearest to the place where the event occurred.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no change to the savings predicted in Report No 1007/03 which have been utilised to contain expenditure within the Law and Administration overall cash limited budget provision.

**5. CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

## 6. CONCLUSION

No major difficulties have been experienced and no formal complaints have been lodged by customers.

Special arrangements were requested 13 times up to May from informants of deaths of Carnoustie residents, but the demand for this service has tailed off and no requests were received during the months of June and July. Only one special arrangement has been made at Brechin, with no requests emanating from Kirriemuir.

No adverse comments have been made by the 316 informants referred to above and indeed, on a number of occasions, informants have commented positively on the revised arrangements. It is also noteworthy that a further 65 informants have chosen to visit an office not closest to the location of the event.

Alterations to improve conditions at Montrose Registration Office have now been approved. These will further enhance facilities at this office, which has seen a major increase in business since the revised arrangements came into operation on 1 January 2004.

CATHERINE A COULL  
Director of Law and Administration

**NOTE:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

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