



■ A HAND FOR THE BRIDE ... Jennifer Lopez (right) in the Hollywood comedy *The Wedding Planner*

# Plan for the big day with new-look registrar

BY RASHID RAZAQ

HOLLYWOOD-style wedding planners could soon be available to Salford families in a shake-up of the council's marriage service.

As used by the Beckhams and shown in the hit Jennifer Lopez movie *The Wedding Planner*, the introduction of an in-house co-ordinator to arrange everything from invitations, flowers, music, photographer and the gift list is part of a modernisation of the registrar's office.

Second weddings – with married couples renewing their vows – are to be introduced in an overhaul of the present system and in response to high demand.

Couples exchanging their vows will now be able to choose between a traditional room with ornamental swag curtains and a new marriage room.

The marriage room has been designed in a more contemporary style in a brown and cream colour scheme, with art works and flower arrangements.

Couples will also be able to notify any register office of their intention to marry rather than the closest to where they live to reflect a change in legislation and to give greater flexibility. The Salford registrar's office is also planning on introducing baby-naming ceremonies and secular funerals to reflect a growing demand for non-religious services.

Same-sex partnership ceremonies are currently available and the council is keen to expand the facility with all couples to be able to wed at a range of venues other than a register office.

Coun Bill Hinds, lead member for customer service and finance, said: "Partnership working and consultation with communities continues to be essential to driving this service forward. The rationale is to enable people to make key decisions about rites of passage by offering more choice."