

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer & Digital	Council	18 Sept 2018

FEES AND CHARGES CHORLEY CEMETERIES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To advise Council of the proposed changes to fees and charges in the Chorley cemeteries.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To introduce new charges in the Muslim burial area in respect of:
 - New concrete chamber burials, including a reduction in interment fees.
 - Existing timber lined standard graves.
- To align burial fees for non-residents with a close connection to the borough, with those of residents as defined by para. 27. The fees will continue to be the same for all faiths
- Other special circumstances and requests to apply the standard resident fee is considered and agreed by the Executive Member for the service under delegated powers.
- To introduce these changes to fees and charges immediately.
- The Cemetery policy is updated to reflect these changes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Capital works at Chorley Cemetery are underway to improve the site overall and accommodate requests from the Muslim community.
- New charges in respect of fees for Muslim burials at Chorley Cemetery are now needed to recoup the costs of:
 - Installing burial chambers - £1,267 per unit
 - Timber lining graves - £150 per plot
- If a burial chamber is purchased interment fees will be reduced by 70% on the Council's standard set fee.
- Charges such as Exclusive Right of Burial fees (purchase of grave plot) however, will remain consistent with other burials.
- There are currently two levels of interment fees with those for non-residents being double those for residents. It is recognised that some people have a close connection with the borough but have had to move away due to work, family or residential care arrangements.
- It is proposed that the fees for non-residents meeting certain criteria are the same as those for residents of the borough. These fees will continue to apply across all faiths.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
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Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X
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BACKGROUND

14. Phase 2 of the capital works at Chorley Cemetery includes new roads and drainage across the cemetery and also tree felling in the Muslim burial area.
15. Historically, the only provision for Muslim interments was a timber lined grave which has not attracted any additional costs beyond the interment fee.
16. To facilitate requests from the Muslim community prices have been obtained for a replacement prayer shelter and a number of concrete burial chambers.
17. A draft "Memorandum of Understanding" between the council and the Muslim community has been drawn up outlining the terms and responsibilities of the two parties in respect of the prayer shelter, concrete chamber burials and timber lined grave burials.
18. As concrete chambers will only require minimal additional preparation for burials it is appropriate that interment fees are reduced by 70%
19. The Council receives up to 10 requests each year to waive the additional fee for the interment of a non-resident due to the deceased's connection with Chorley. These are considered on an individual basis by the Executive Member (Customer, Advice and Streetscene services).

PROPOSED FEES FOR MUSLIM GRAVE TYPES AND PRAYER SHELTER COSTS

20. As part of the improvements in the Muslim section of the cemetery the council will purchase and pre-install a number of concrete chambers. These will be available as well as the existing timber lined graves.
21. Concrete Burial Chambers
 - a. Prices for concrete chambers have been obtained from a contractor and are £1,267 per unit.
 - b. The council will pay for approximately 23 burial chambers initially, dependent on the topography of the site.
 - c. The cost of each chamber will be recovered when a burial takes place.
22. Timber Lined Graves
 - a. The cost to the council of timber lining graves is currently £150.
 - b. This cost will be recovered when a burial takes place in a standard grave.
 - c. This charge has not been applied previously.
23. The Exclusive Right of Burial fee (purchase of grave plot) including Certificate of Burial will remain consistent with other burials.
24. However, interment fees will be reduced by 70% on the Council's standard fees if a burial chamber is purchased.
25. Prayer Shelter
 - a. Executive Cabinet approved a financial contribution towards the infrastructure and build costs of the prayer shelter on 15 February 2018.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO FEES FOR NON RESIDENTS FOR ALL FAITHS

26. Fees for non-residents of the Borough are currently double the fees for residents.
27. It is proposed that a resident (the deceased) is now classed as;
 - a. a permanent occupier of a residential property within the borough of Chorley or a payer of council tax to Chorley Council or
 - b. a former resident who purchased the grave whilst living in the borough or has previously lived in the borough for 10 years of adult life or
 - c. are the parent, child or spouse of a resident

28. Any other special circumstances and request to apply the standard resident fee is made under delegated powers by the appropriate Executive Member for the service.
29. It is proposed that these changes take effect immediately.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

30.

Current Fees		Proposed Fees	
Timber lined grave:		Option 1 – Timber lined grave:	
	£		£
Interment of an Adult	600	Interment of an Adult	600
Exclusive Right of Burial	900	Exclusive Right of Burial	900
Certificate of Burial	27	Certificate of Burial	27
Grave Marker	27	Grave Marker	27
		Timber Lining	150
	1,554		1,704
Concrete Chambers		Option 2 - Concrete Chambers	
	No provision	Concrete burial chamber (recovery of direct cost)	1,267
		Interment of an Adult	180
		Exclusive Right of Burial	900
		Certificate of Burial	27
		Grave Marker	27
			2,401

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

31. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	X
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

RISK

A risk register has been completed	Yes	No
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COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

32. On average Chorley Cemetery have two Muslim burials per year. It is envisaged the introduction of concrete chambers at the request of the Muslim community, alongside other improvements to the cemetery and changes to non-resident fee policy will facilitate further interest from the Muslim community.
33. The fee levied for the concrete chamber reflects the cost to the council. As such this may change should the need arrive for more chambers in the future.

34. If approved, changes to the Cemetery pricing policy must be reflected in the council website.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

35. Whilst there is an existing policy the report introduces new charges which are properly considered by Councillors.

ASIM KHAN
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER & DIGITAL

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Asim Khan	5448	08/08/18	***