



**Policy, Finance
& Development
Committee**

22 July 2014

**Matter for
Information**

Title:

Future Burial Provisions

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Author:

1. Introduction

At the Policy, Finance & Development Committee meeting on 4 February 2014 it was resolved that subject to consultation the subsidy be reduced from £2,260 for burials outside of the Borough where the Council cannot facilitate them within the Borough to £1,000. It was also recommended that this arrangement to be in place for no more than two years. In the meantime further work is to be carried out regarding the provision of a new cemetery within the Borough.

This consultation was specifically in relation to the reduction in subsidy. The further piece of work regarding the provision of a new cemetery within the Borough will be presented to a future committee meeting and any proposals arising from this will be subject to a separate consultation.

Letters were sent to representatives of the faiths involved asking for responses to the consultation on the proposed reduction in the subsidy. The consultation was also available through the Council's website. Discussions are ongoing with the representatives and a report on the outcome of these discussions will be presented to the next meeting of the Policy, Finance & Development Committee. In the meantime the current reduced subsidy limit of £1,000 for each burial will be continued. Based on expenditure in the April-June 2014 period the budget for 2014/15 of £10,400 will need monitoring and increasing by virement if necessary as approved by the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

2. Recommendations

- (a) The Report be noted.
- (b) Members note that in accordance with the Financial Regulations the Chief Financial Officer will monitor and increase by virement where necessary the total budget for this expenditure.

3. Information

Some years ago this Council introduced a financial subsidy provision to assist with the costs of burials for residents of other faiths whose requirements of burial in accordance with their faith cannot be met within the Borough due to lack of cemetery provision. In view of the Public Spending cuts the Council has found it necessary to reconsider the level of subsidy arrangements for other faith burials outside of the Borough. In 2013/14 the

budget for subsidising other faith burials was £8,000 overspent. Since the arrangements were put in place some years ago, the demand for other faith burials has increased and the fees charged by the Leicester City Council have risen at a far greater rate than this Council. In 2013/14 the subsidy paid to Leicester City Council for an adult burial amounted to £2,260. The Policy, Finance & Development Committee meeting on 4 February 2014 resolved that subject to consultation the subsidy be reduced to £1,000 for burials outside of the Borough for a member of any faith community where the Council cannot facilitate them within the Borough. It was also resolved that this arrangement be in place for no more than two years. In the meantime further work is to be carried out regarding the provision of a new cemetery within the Borough. This further piece of work regarding the provision of a new cemetery within the Borough will be presented to a future meeting of this committee and any proposals arising from this would be subject to a separate consultation.

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Background Papers:-

- Report to the Policy, Finance & Development Committee meeting on 4 February 2014
- Letters sent out to representatives of other faith burials who are affected by the subsidy arrangements

Implications	
Financial	(JD) CR1 – there are no financial implications through consultation on this proposal.
Risk	(AC) CR1 – decreasing financial resources CR5 affected utilisation of assets and ??? buildings
Equalities	(AC) An Equalities Impact Assessment will be required.
Legal	(AC) There is no legal requirement for a Local Authority to provide land for burial purposes.