
Report to: Place Committee

Date of Meeting: 13 September 2018

Subject: The Removal of Charges for Children's Burials

Report by: Strategic Director - Place

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. Clackmannanshire Council currently applies charges for the burial of children and young people aged 17 and under except where an infant is buried in the designated baby area at Sunnyside Cemetery, Alloa. This report seeks approval from Council to withdraw all burial charges for children and young people, as recommended by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is agreed that Committee recommend that Council :
- (a) ceases charging for child burials (the deceased being age 17 and under) from September 2018, and
 - (b) continues to charge an interment and maintenance fees together with, if applicable, any headstone fees in the event of any subsequent adult burials in the same lair.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. On 30 May, 2018 the Scottish Government and COSLA committed to work together to ensure the removal of all local authority charges for child burials in order to support parents and families. They noted that the charging practices of Councils varied across Scotland and agreed that no family should have to pay to bury their child anywhere in the country. It is hoped that all charges for child burials, including interment fee (currently waived by the Council), lair purchase fee and headstone fees will be removed with immediate effect. The Scottish Government has committed to support Council policy change. Accordingly, the Council should now consider whether to agree to the waiving of all fees relative to a child's burial.
- 3.2. Further the Council should consider whether to charge an interment fee and maintenance fee together with, if applicable, the headstone fees for subsequent adult burials in the same lair. A lair can accommodate up to three burials. Current charges are as follows:

Lair Purchase	£ 854.10
Future Maintenance Fee	£ 255.80
Headstone Fees (permit and foundation)	£ 344.70
Total Costs	£1454.60

4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. No implications.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. In 2017 there were no requests to bury a child in a full lair, although 6 infants under 1 year of age were buried in the designated baby area at Sunnyside Cemetery, Alloa where no burial fees apply. The number of future child burial requests is difficult to predict. It maybe that requests for such burials will increase due to the removal of charges. In particular, in relation to infant burials it could be that families will prefer their child to be buried outwith the designated baby area in order that a further 2 family members may be buried in the same lair at some time in the future.

5.3. The Scottish Government have indicated an intention to provide financial support of £310,000 per annum to local authorities. Funding will be included as an adjustment to the 2018-19 Local Government Finance Order in early 2019. This figure shall be reviewed in 2021. Allocation of funds to each individual Council shall be calculated in accordance with child populations. On this basis it is anticipated that the Council will be granted approximately £3100. Accordingly, on the basis of burial costs of £1454.60, as detailed in paragraph 3.2, being waived there would be no financial implications for the Council until more then 2 requests for child burial were received.

5.4. Equally, insofar as the Scottish Governments financial support does not cover the costs associated with adult burials in a child's lair (approximately £1083 per adult) then it is not proposed to waive the interment and maintenance fees for subsequent adult burials in the child's lair.

5.5. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate.
Yes x

5.6. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report.
Yes x

5.7. *Staffing*

5.8. There are no staffing implications.

6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

7.0 Declarations

7.1 The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail) None

8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Not applicable.

9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

None

11.0 Background Papers

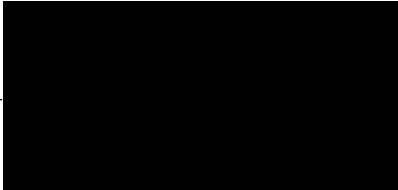
11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)
Yes (please list the documents below)

Letter sent to Chief Executive on 1 June 2018

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Approved by

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