

CABINET

The Neptune Baby and Young Child Memorial Garden Torrisholme Cemetery

Fees and Charges 2009/10

Individual Cabinet Member Decision

Report of Head of Health & Strategic Housing

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
This report sets out the proposed fees and charges for the new baby area at Torrisholme Cemetery.			
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision	X Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF HEAD OF HEALTH AND STRATEGIC HOUSING

(1) That the introduction of new charges are agreed.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council did not have a specific and dedicated area for the burial and memorialisation of babies and young children in any of its cemeteries. This was highlighted by the Cemeteries Task Group and should be provided to meet the Charter for the Bereaved standards.

1.2 Having regard to location and availability of land, it was decided to construct this area at Torrisholme Cemetery. This dedicated baby and young child memorial garden is available to all parents who have suffered the loss of a child, regardless of where the funeral took place, as the Council appreciates the need for all parents to be united and to share each others' grief.

Being a coastal authority it was decided at the planning stage to have a maritime theme and the Neptune idea was subsequently created. The Neptune and family characters have been arranged in this feature to provide a marine mythological and spiritual element but most importantly to be subconsciously comforting to children and parents visiting a loved ones grave or memorial.

1.3 The burial and memorial options on offer have been carefully considered and result from research and visits to other dedicated baby areas to assess the types of

services required to fulfil the needs of the bereaved in such circumstances. In particular, the need to have a section offering public graves, ie, communal/unpurchased graves was identified. In these circumstances, the family will have a number of memorial plaque options which could be purchased.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed charges which have been determined to reflect the cost of provision and charges made by burial authorities providing similar services.

2.2 Appendix 2 contains the current fees & charges for cemetery services for comparison.

3.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

3.1 The options are:

- (i) To approve the proposed charges.
- (ii) To approve a different set of charges.

4.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

4.1 The officer preferred option is (i)

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Fees and Charges form an integral part of the budget setting process and this new area will generate income over future years.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The fee structure and options available will not disadvantage those residents least able to pay and the proposed charges are considered to be fair and reasonable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should either of the proposals in this report be accepted, it is expected that this will give rise to an increase in the income on the Cemeteries budget in respect of all items in Appendix 1 except for the EROB on baby graves. EROB estimates have already been included in the original budget, however the remaining income streams are not quantifiable at this moment, as the service is new to the Lancaster district and therefore uptake of the service is unknown.

The actual income received will be monitored for the first 6 months. This will give some idea of the uptake and the budgets will be adjusted to reflect the new income streams as part of 2009/2010 budget process.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cemeteries Task Group Report.
Fees & Charges 2009/10 Report to Cabinet
20 January 2009.

Contact Officer: Steve Mann

Telephone: 01524 582737

E-mail: smann@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: C82

APPENDIX 1

THE NEPTUNE BABY AND YOUNG CHILD MEMORIAL GARDEN

Burial Options	£
Purchased Grave including headstone and plaque with up to 6 lines of text.	1,140.00 + VAT
Exclusive Right of Burial	306.25
Public Grave	Free of Charge
Cremated Remains	
Niche Wall Plaques including up to 4 lines of text	195.00 + VAT
10 year lease for external niche wall	175.00
10 year lease for internal altar niche	350.00
Scattering of ashes	Free of Charge
Memorial Plaques	
Perimeter plaque including up to 4 lines of text	195.00 + VAT
10 year lease for perimeter plaque	150.00
Centre feature plaque including up to 6 lines of text	345.00 + VAT
10 year lease for centre plaque	350.00
Charges for Extras	
Additional line of inscription	30.00 + VAT
Posy holders for niche wall	10.00 + VAT
Motifs	30.00 + VAT
Custom Motif	P.O.A.
Oval Ceramic Photo Plaque 5cm x 7cm (Colour)	65.00 + VAT
Oval Ceramic Photo Plaque 5cm x 7cm (Black & White)	35.00 + VAT