

28th NOVEMBER 2013**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT****FEES AND CHARGES – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT****EXEMPT INFORMATION**

No

PURPOSE

To inform members of proposed fee increases applicable to the cemetery and sports pitch Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

- 1 approve the initial increase in Cemetery fees from the 1st January 2014
- 2 approve annual increases in Cemetery fees by RPI commencing on 1st April 2015, with a full review of fees every three years.
- 3 approve the ongoing annual increase in Sports Pitch fees by RPI on 1st April 2014, with a full review every three years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A full review of both Cemetery and Sports Pitch fees has been carried out, comparing other local authority providers, the findings are summarised respectively in Appendix 1 and 2.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There will be an increase in revenue from the increase in fees provided that the current usage levels remain constant or increase, there are no other financial implications to this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

There is a risk that by increasing the fees for both Cemeteries and Sport Pitches that customers will deter from using the service.

This has been mitigated by researching other providers and increasing fees to remain competitive but not over priced.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Cemetery fees were last increased in December 2010 having previously not been increased since 2005. To ensure the fees still offer our residents value for money, a full comparison of other Local Authority Cemetery Fees and Charges has been undertaken to demonstrate the proposed increases reflect regional influences. This is attached in Appendix 1 together with the proposed increased cemetery fees.

Sports Pitch fees have not been increased for 5 years. Appendix 2 shows proposed increased fees and local comparisons for pitch hire. Given sports activity is a vital part of our emerging health agenda it is recommended that fees are only increased in line with the retail price index to reflect the increase in the Councils direct costs.

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Cemetery Fees and Local Comparisons

Appendix 2 – Proposed Sports Pitch Fees and Local Comparisons