



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Transition Committee
Subject:	LGR Cemetery Charges
Date:	29 January 2015
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson Business Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
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	<p>Currently BCC has an arrangement with CBC regarding burials for its residents. Castlereagh Borough Council pays one quarter of the difference between the Belfast resident and non Belfast resident charge for burials which is £300. In addition, a £100 per month management / administration fee is also paid to BCC by CBC. This is a long standing arrangement and relates to the fact that CBC has no burial grounds of its own and Roselawn and Dundonald Cemeteries lie within the CBC boundary.</p> <p>In Lisburn City Council (LCC) there is no such arrangement as they have a number of cemeteries within its boundaries. However the relevant issue is that former CBC residents availing of the arrangement with Belfast are now joining with LCC as part of local government reform. Also some former LCC residents who would have bought graves in Blaris for example will now fall within BCC boundaries and will have to pay the higher non resident rates charged by LCC for subsequent grave openings.</p>
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2.	Key Issues
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	<p>Discussions have been ongoing with Lisburn and Castlereagh regarding the impact of the changes on burial charges to residents and non residents. Both Councils have presented written reports to the Shadow Environmental Services Committee.</p> <p>The analysis has highlighted that there are potentially 1041 grave lease at Blaris that will be affected by residents transferring from LCC to BCC.</p> <p>A number of options were put forward to the Shadow Environmental Services Committee for LCCDC regarding providing a subsidy for transferring LCC residents to assist with the increase from Resident to non resident rates. The option adopted by the committee was a phased subsidy for former LCC residents in line with the 3 year rates convergence period.</p> <p>In contrast 26k residents moving into the Belfast City Council area from CBC/LCC will experience a reduction of over 60% in purchasing a grave in comparison to the previous non resident charge they would have paid as LCC/CBC residents.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> The issue relates to subsequent re-openings for LCC residents moving into Belfast – currently their charge is £312 for residents and goes up to £1,150 for non-residents (£838 of a difference) In year 1 this differential would be subsidised by 100%, year 2 66.6%, year 3 33.3% and in year 4 the former Lisburn resident with a grave in Blaris would be paying the full non resident rate</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None</p>
4.	Equality and good relations implications
	There are no equality implications as the price is applied to all LCC/CBC residents moving into Belfast City Council area.
5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to note the content of the report and the option adopted to LCCDC's Shadow Environmental Services Committee.
6	Key to Abbreviations
	BCC - Belfast City Council LCC - Lisburn City Council LCCDC Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council
7	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 BCC burial charges 2014/15 Appendix 2 Lisburn charges 2014/15

CEMETERIES SCALE OF CHARGES 2014/15

Price list for new graves and grants	01/04/14 – 31/03/15	
	Belfast residents	Non-Belfast residents
Grave		
Type A grave (1)	£556	£1,757
Type B grave (2)	£270	£853
Type C grave (when available)	£161	£508
Opening graves and vaults		
First opening of a grave	£394	£1,244
Second opening of a grave or other subsequent openings	£316	£998
Opening of a grave to check if a burial can take place	£162	£512
Burial of cremated remains in a grave	£76	£243
Exhumation	£3,970	

LISBURN CITY COUNCIL

CEMETERY CHARGES

	LCC	LCC
	2013/14	2014/2015
	Charge	Charge
	£	£
<u>Interment</u>		
Each Opening - Residents	£312.00	£312.00
- Non - Residents	£1,150.00	£1,150.00
Extra for Burial on weekend and public holiday	£235.00	£235.00
Burial of cremated ashes / Stillborn infants (Resident)	£87.00	£87.00
Burial of cremated ashes / Stillborn infants (Non - Resident)	£175.00	£175.00
<u>Memorials - Approved Fee</u>		
Resident	£107.00	£107.00
Non - Resident	£215.00	£215.00
Resident Regularisation Fee	£215.00	£215.00
Non Resident Regularisation Fee	£430.00	£430.00
<u>Other Fees</u>		
Exhumation Charge	£1,810.00	£1,810.00
Search Fee - Residents	£40.00	£40.00
Search Fee - Non-Residents	£80.00	£80.00
Duplicate Grant	£49.00	£49.00
Transfers - Resident	£49.00	£49.00
Transfers - Non-Resident	£377.00	£377.00
Maintenance of grave	£22.00	£22.00