



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Cemetery/Crematorium Charges
Date:	14 April 2011
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager

1. Relevant Background Information
<p>Members will recall the report presented in February on the review of fees and charges for burials and cremations which was agreed at council on 1 March.</p> <p>The charges for burial and cremation services are normally reviewed in January along with the department's other fees and charges. A 5% increase has currently been allowed for in the 2011/12 estimates.</p>

2. Key Issues
<p>At February Parks and Leisure committee Members agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) in relation to the provision of new graves for Belfast residents, option 1 be adopted, that is, no price increase(ii) in relation to the provision of new graves for non – Belfast residents, option 2 be adopted, that is a 5% increase;(iii) in relation to those cremation charges applicable to Belfast residents, option 1 be adopted, that is, no price increase(iv) in relation to those cremation charges applicable to non-Belfast residents, that a 10% increase be levied each year over the next four year period; and(v) a review be undertaken over the next six months in respect of all charges levied in connection to the council's provision of cemeteries and cremation services. <p>The above decision has implications in relation to the budgeted estimated provision for 2011/12 for the service as they do not provide for an inflationary increase in costs to the service or generate the level of income estimated.</p>

3. Resource implications
<p><u>Financial</u> The analysis of the current levels of demand by residents and non residents indicates a potential loss of income in relation to burials is £24,000. However as</p>

	61% of current users of the crematorium are non residents with the 10% increase in charges agreed there is the potential to gain approximately £10,000. The net loss in relation the charges set would be £14,000 approximately. Again these figures are subject to demand and are based on the trends experienced in 2010/11 year to date.
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4.	Equality and good relations implications
	An equality impact assessment of the scale of charges within the service was previously carried out and all issues were addressed at that time. No changes have been made to the principles underpinning their rationale.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

6.	Decision Tracking
	New pricing schedule implemented from 1 April 2011 as per the recommendation adopted to be carried out by the Business Manager and reflected in the estimates going forward where applicable.

7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	None.