

Gloucester City Council

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Meeting: | Cabinet | Date: | 11 October 2023 |
| Subject: | Non-Resident Burial Fees | | |
| Report Of: | Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources | | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | Budget/Policy Framework: | No |
| Contact Officer: | Carly Locke, Bereavement Service Manager | | |
| | Email: carly.hughes@gloucester.gov.uk | Tel:01452 | 396087 |
| Appendices: | None | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To put a non-residents' fees in place for residents that are living outside of Gloucester City Council boundary, the non-residents fee will help prolong the space available for the residents of Gloucester.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) non-residents' fees are put in place to residents that are not living within the Gloucester City boundary
- (2) a non-resident fee will be charged if the person being buried (the deceased) wasn't living in Gloucester when they died. This is on top of the Exclusive Right of Burial Fee meaning that people who don't reside in Gloucester, but who want to be buried in Gloucester Cemeteries, will pay more than residents who do live in Gloucester City boundary. This will not apply to persons that have a pre purchased grave in Gloucester Cemeteries, a person who will be interred into a re-opened grave and a person who was once a resident of Gloucester City boundary but moved out of the boundary to reside in a nursing home, hospice, or something of a similar nature, the latter scenario to be entirely at the Council's sole discretion.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council are aware of the importance of the use of burial land to accommodate all faiths and beliefs of our city residents, The Council own 2 Cemeteries one in Tredworth Road which was closed to new burials in 1990's and can only be used for purchase in reserve burials and reopens into an existing grave, Coney Hill which at present is an open cemetery to all residents of any areas in and out of the City boundary.

- 3.2 Gloucester City Council have been actively seeking additional burial land to continue to offer residents the option of burial. This is an ongoing project to increase burial space in the City.
- 3.3 This report is seeking approval for an additional fee to be added to the purchase of burial rights for residents that do not pay their council tax to Gloucester City Council to maintain the burial space available for Gloucester residents.
- 3.4 The review undertaken considered the following:
- Gloucester Cemetery fees are lower than those of our neighbouring authorities. The lower fee rate makes Gloucester Cemetery more attractive to non-residents. This creates a greater demand for burial space and the available space is being used quicker than expected.
 - Creating a charge for non-residents will bring pricing in line with our neighbouring authorities and reduce demand for non-resident burials. This will maintain the burial space available for Gloucester residents.
 - The proposed non-residents fee will be set at three times the purchase of burial rights fee for 50 years along with the interment fee and this will be subject to annual review.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 None

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 The review is trying to facilitate burial space for the residents of Gloucester for longer,

5.2 We are a multi culture city and Gloucester Cemeteries and Crematorium look to ensure that we will always be able to accommodate each individual last wishes of burial or cremation to adhere to all religions and faiths, and to always look to offer burial as a choice.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 To continue to allow all to make use of the burial land at Gloucester Cemetery meaning the burial land will be used sooner than the planned, should burial land not be allocated by such time we would no longer be able to offer residents the option of burial which mean the residents who have a religious belief of burial not cremation would not be able to be accommodated at Gloucester.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 The rationale behind the increase is to ensure we have sufficient space to accommodate residents needs into the future, to allow us to ensure that we accommodate all residents that do not wish to be cremated.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 The burial land is already in situ and being maintained by the Gloucester City Council bereavement services grounds staff so this will have no change to staff structure or impact on the service.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The burial land is already in situ and being maintained by the Gloucester City Council bereavement services grounds staff, there are no additional financial costs associated with this introducing this policy.
- 9.2 Not implementing the new charges would result in a faster reduction of available burial space and require the Council to look to purchase additional land in order to create additional space.

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Council is not required by statute to provide land for burial purposes, but the Council has discretion to make such provision.

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 made under the Local Government Act 1972 provides a power for burial authorities to charge such fees as they think “proper” for or in relation to burials in Cemeteries provided by the authority.

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 N/A

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 None

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 None