



Agenda item:

Individual Cabinet Member Signing 18th March 2008 7pm

Report Title: 2008/9 fees and Charges for Bereavement Services	
Report of: Director of Adult, Culture & Community Services	
Wards(s) affected: All	Report for: Non-key decision
1. Purpose To approve fees and charges for the 2008/2009 for Bereavement Services	
2. Introduction by Cabinet Member 2.1 The proposed charges set out in this report are in line with decisions made during the 2008/9 – 2010/11 Budget Setting process, particularly in relation to achieving efficiency gains in this service area.	
3. Recommendations 3.1 That the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning approves the 2008/9 charges for Bereavement Services	
Report Authorised by: Mun Thong Phung, Director of Adult, Culture & Community Services	
Contact Officer: Chi Wong, Business Support Manager, Recreation Services 020 8489 5697 chi.wong@haringey.gov.uk	
4. Chief Financial Officer Comments 4.1 The proposed cremation price increase will address the Pre-business Review efficiency savings of £115k related to cremation income.	

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and comments that there is discretion to charge for the services listed. The discretion must be exercised reasonably, and in the case of bereavement services the authority may charge such fees as it thinks proper. Accordingly no legal issues arise in relation to the proposed charges.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

[List background documents]

[Also list reasons for exemption or confidentiality (if applicable)]

7. Strategic Implications

- 7.1 Council's charging policy for commercial services states that prices for such services should aim to recover costs fully and price setting be guided by the market. Cremation is a commercial service and accordingly, the proposed cremation prices are comparable with the market (see comparison in appendix 1) and will result in a surplus.
- 7.2 Burial prices are raised to ensure that business demands stay at current levels without unduly increasing the uptake of burials and thus draining the limited burial capacity .

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The 2008/9 forecast/budgeted cremation income is £1,081k including the PBPR efficiency savings of £115k.
- 8.2 The proposed price increase of cremation to £495 (12.5% increase over 2007/8 prices £440) and the number of cremations at 2,200 (in line with current demand) will deliver this income target.
- 8.3 Prices of burials will be increased by 6% and will deliver the 2008/9 burial income target of £583k.
- 8.4 Cremation prices will now be close to the top end of the local market (being the 3rd highest) and thus the ability to increase prices further to fund future expenditure in compliance with mercury emission will be substantially reduced.
- 8.5 Other avenues including commercial disposal of property within the Enfield site would need to be pursued to fund such expenditure.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 Head of Legal Service comments have been inserted at 5.1.

10. Equalities Implications

- 10.1 The fees and charges apply to all users who use the services and are structured to provide equal access by all citizens and reflect the full diversity of the community. Discount burial prices apply to parishioners.

10.2 We are committed to eliminating discrimination on grounds of age; disability; colour, ethnic origin, national origin or race; gender; HIV status; marital status; religious belief; responsibility for dependants; sexuality, and unrelated criminal conviction. We offer Muslim burials at Wood Green cemetery.

11. Consultation

11.1 Not applicable.

12. Background

12.1 As in previous years, the Council review cremation and burial prices in comparison with neighbouring boroughs and update prices in order to optimise income whilst meeting current demands and remaining competitive.

12.2 Cremation price increases will also deliver the approved 2008/9 PBPR efficiency saving targets of £115k on cremations.

12.3 The council capacity in burials is limited and it is important that the current demand is maintained without causing accelerated uptake of burial spaces.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The proposed increase in bereavement prices are comparable with the neighbouring operators and deliver the income budget without increasing accelerated reduction of burial capacity or undue demands on its capital resources.

14. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

14.1 Appendix 1 Cremation prices – comparison with neighbours.

14.2 Appendix 2 Burial prices – comparison with neighbours.

14.3 Appendix 3 Cremation & Burial proposed prices for 2008/9

Appendix 1

Cremation Comparison chart

Crematorium.	London position rating	National position rating	No. of cremations 2005	Fee 2006/07	Fee 07/08	Fee 08/09
* City of London	1	17	2967	£498	£520	no new price yet
Enfield Crematorium	2	34	2455	£405	£440	495
*Golders Green	3	85	1911	£460	£485	523
Lewisham	4	159	1428	£350	£405	435
South London	5	190	1169	£400	£475	Same till November 08
West London	6	198	1094	£405	£440	Same till November 08
*Hendon	7	202	1013	£395	£430	485
*New Southgate	8	211	921	£485	£495	no new price yet
*Islington	9	219	803	£335	£425	no new price yet
Lambeth	10	227	709	£320	£350	390
East London	11	231	650	£385	£415	445
*Marylebone	12	234	633	£421.50	£485	no new price yet
*Manor Park	13	235	625	£420	£465	495

Average	470
Median	485
Highest	523
Enfield	3rd highest

*Harwood Park	Not London	13	3186	£485	£510	no new price yet
*Parndonwood	Not London	115	1703	£385	£325	Without organist

* Indicates our immediate competitors
There are 249 crematoriums in the country.

No London Crematorium is now in the top ten league for 1 out per annum

Appendix 2

Burial Comparison prices 2007/2008

Cemetery	Traditional dig	Vault	Depth	Lease yrs	
City of London	£3100 - £5717	From £4000	From 2 - 6	50	
Enfield Lawn	£2,575		3	30	
Wood Green *	£4,100	£4,100	triple	30	With headstones installed
Lambeth	£2,375	£6,500	3 trad, 2 vault	25 - 50	
Islington (Camden)	£2,500		2 to 4	30	
lavender Hill	£1,595		3	50	Enfield
Edmonton	£2,910		3	50	Enfield
Cheshunt (Bury Green)	£1,595		3	50	Enfield
Croydon	£3,272		4	50	
Southgate	From £2,350	£8,000	2	50yr + 100	No headstone installed
Wandsworth	£2,570		2	40	
Lewisham	£2,020	£5,025	3	50	
Barnet	Comes under Enfield				
Bromley	£3,043		4	60	
Kensington	£2,119		2	75	
Kingston	£2,640		2	25	

Average	£2,670	£5,525
Median	£2,575	£5,025
Highest	£5,717	£8,000
Haringey		
Wood Green	2nd highest	3rd highest
Enfield Lawn	7th highest	

* Wood Green price for traditional dig includes Headstone

APPENDIX 3
LIST OF FEES PAYABLE FOR CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM
FROM 1ST APRIL 2008

	Current charge inc. VAT where applicable 200708	Revised charge inc. VAT where applicable 2008/2009	% age increase
Cremations			
Adult cremation with organist/CDs	£440	£495	12.5%
5 – 12 yrs	£80	£80	0.0%
Foetal remains/body parts	£45	£45	0.0%
Saturday cremation adult	£553	£585	5.8%
Double time cremation	£530	£580	9.4%
Contract/Parish cremation	£250	£275	10.0%
Memorial service in chapel	£185	£185	0.0%
Exhumation of cremated remains	£65	£70	7.7%
Cremated remains interment fee (existing plot)	£35	£40	14.3%
Dispersal fee from other crematoriums	£60	£70	16.7%
Average cremation price increase			8.1%

APPENDIX 3 (Cont'd)
LIST OF FEES PAYABLE FOR CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIUM
FROM 1ST APRIL 2008

Burials			
Grave/land space, 30yr lease – parishioner (3 inter)	£1,615	£1,775	9.9%
First interment (9ft depth)	£960	£985	2.6%
Grave/land space – Non parishioner (3 interments)	£3,035	£3,335	9.9%
First Interment	£960	£985	2.6%
First Reopen (9ft)	£960	£985	2.6%
Second reopen (7ft)	£920	£935	1.6%
Last one in (5ft)	£860	£880	2.3%
Vault - Parishoner	£4,100	£4,300	4.9%
Vault - Non- Parishoner	£5,010	£5,300	5.8%
Vault - granite - Parishoner	£5,100	£5,400	5.9%
Vault - granite - Non-Parishoner	£6,010	£6,400	6.5%
Public grave	£950	£985	3.7%
Baby grave (single depth)	£450	£465	3.3%
Removing & refixing full surround Tottenham	£225	£230	2.2%
Cleaning/levelling/repairing & other remedial work			
To headstones	£65	£70	7.7%
Foundation plinth for headstone	£95	£110	15.8%
Admission fee for new headstone	£55	£60	9.1%
Enfield lawn & Wood Green & Tottenham complete	£150	£170	13.3%
Additional inscription to headstone	£40	£50	25.0%
Grave deed transfer/duplicate deed	£45	£55	22.2%
Average burial price increase			5.9%

Memorials - retail prices