

<p>B1 What is the Decision?</p>	<p>To approve the introduction of a Public Health Funeral Policy Statement to formalise the arrangements the Council will adopt to provide a dignified and value for money public health funeral service.</p>
<p>B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?</p>	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide funerals for a person that has died where no arrangements are being made. This is usually where there are no family or friends available to make the necessary arrangements. However there has been a notable increase in the amount of welfare funerals being requested by family and friends where they are not prepared to make the arrangements themselves. This is often due to financial difficulties or due to families being estranged.</p> <p>The Council had a contract in place to arrange public health funerals which has now ended. Due to an increased demand and associated costs for public health funerals future options have been considered for a cost effective public health funeral service that meets the Council's statutory duty.</p> <p>A direct cremation has been identified as the most cost effective service available. A Public Health Funeral Policy Statement has been drafted identifying direct cremation as the default type of funeral that is provided unless specific wishes are identified. It also provides procedural guidance and clarity to the public as to what to expect when the service is provided by East Staffordshire Borough Council.</p>
<p>B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?</p>	<p>Value for Money Council Services- The provision of a cost effective public health funeral service that ensures value for money.</p> <p>Protecting and strengthening communities- The provision of public health funerals is a statutory requirement for the protection of public health.</p>
<p>B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?</p>	<p>There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.</p>

Financial Implications

<p>B5 What are the financial implications?</p>	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <p>The costs associated with Public Health Funerals can be offset through the removal and sale of possessions from the deceased estate. However, in the event of there being no assets recovered from the deceased, or a shortfall in costs, the deficit is funded from the Environmental Health budget. The 2018/19 budget for welfare funerals is £3500.</p> <p>The current standard price for a funeral involving burial in a public grave is £1,187 and cremation is £1,380. The cost of a funeral has increased by 32% from an average of £858.60 in 2011/12 to £1128.75 in 2017/18.</p> <p>Following soft market testing the costs for funeral services have been compared providing a cost reduction for the provision of a direct cremation at a price of £1050 or direct burial at £1282. However as the type of funeral provided varies depending on the deceased wishes and the cost to the council varies depending on the assets that are recovered from the deceased anticipated savings will be variable.</p>
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<p>The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:</p>	<p>Please print name: ANYA MURRAY</p> <p>Please:</p> <div style="background-color: orange; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	Yes/No/NA (please delete as appropriate)
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	Yes/No/NA (please delete as appropriate)
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
<p>B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced costs for public health funerals and clarity on the mechanisms to reclaim administrative costs. Clear adopted policy provides clarity and consistency for the public • Reduction in people requested a public health funeral as an alternative to funding a funeral. • Council fulfilling its statutory duty and protecting public health. • Reduced costs for public health funerals and clarity on the mechanisms to reclaim administrative costs.
<p>B9.2 Negative (Threats):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of policy creates inconsistency and lack of clarity in performing public health funerals • Complaints from family members that request a greater level of funeral service
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows:

Section 46(1) of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 imposes a duty on the Council to bury or cremate the dead where it appears that no other suitable arrangements will be made.

The legislation does not stipulate what a public health funeral should include but specifies that the Council should not cremate the deceased if they have reason to believe that the deceased did not wish to be cremated.

The Public Health Funerals Policy Statement clarifies the role of the Council and specifies the type and level of funeral provision to provide a dignified, value for money service. It also clarifies the Council's position on the publication of data under the Freedom of Information Act.

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:

Please print name:

ANGELA WAKEFIELD

Please print name:

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:

B11.1 The proposal would not result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:

B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Harriet for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision?	No
<p>Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards. 	
B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	Yes/No/NA (<i>please delete as appropriate</i>)
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	Yes/No/NA (<i>please delete as appropriate</i>)

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk