

Grounds and Environmental Services Committee

Date: 8th March 2020

Title: Cemetery Fees and Charges

Purpose of the Report: To consider a zero increase in the 2021/2022 cemetery fess.

Contact Officers: Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services.

Corporate Objective/s		To provide great public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure and to exceed expectations in delivering cemetery and allotment services.
Implications:		
Financial		To continue with the projected annual budget 1100/401 - £70,000 and 1101/401 - £18,000
Risk management		None
Operational/service delivery		None
Legal/compliance		None

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the recommendations are:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To consider and approve a zero increase in cemetery fees and charges for 2021/2022 with the expectation that this be reviewed in 12 months' time unless determined otherwise.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Leighton-Linslade Town Council provides a number of services that it levies a charge for. These charges are regularly reviewed and adhere to the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
- 2.2 Fees & Charges are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure Council;

- Has the ability to meet corporate and service objectives;
- Has a way to manage demand through either encouraging or discouraging the use of services and/or the patterns of use of services;
- Provides clarity regarding why different charges are set for different user groups e.g. through the use of discounts/concessions;
- Has an agreed set of fees and charges that will make an important and significant contribution to achieving the Council's financial objectives.

2.3 Fees and charges represent an important source of income to the Council. There are a number of potential conflicts between raising income by increasing charges and promoting the use of the facilities Council provides particularly by vulnerable groups on a low income. The appropriate fee structure will, therefore, depend on the overall intention for that service area. The Council is responsible for managing public funds in a proper manner and should set its charges at appropriate levels.

2.4 At its meeting held 9th September 2019, the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee resolved to:

Endorse all fees & charges for Cemeteries be increased by the September 2019 Retail Price Index (RPI) plus 1% (and rounded up to the nearest 50p before VAT)

2.5 This is the first review since the September 2019 resolution and given current circumstances, it is considered neither fair nor reasonable to consider any kind of increase to cemetery fees and charges at the present time. In accordance with the recommendation set out at para. 1.2, a zero increase is proposed albeit this will be reviewed no earlier than 2022 unless Members determine otherwise.

End.