

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

12 November 2019

**Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services and the
Director of Finance & Transformation**

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Key Decision

1 REVIEW OF CEMETERY CHARGES 2020/21

Summary

This report outlines charging proposals for 2020/21 in regard to Tonbridge Cemetery. It is anticipated that these proposals will generate additional net income, approximately £1,200.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In bringing forward the charging proposals for Tonbridge Cemetery consideration has been given to the set of guiding principles for the setting of fees and charges approved by Members.

1.2 Tonbridge Cemetery – Proposed Charges 2020/21

1.2.1 In bringing forward the proposed charges for Tonbridge Cemetery a number of specific key principles have been taken into consideration:

- The Council's overall financial position.
- The need to move towards a position of covering more of the costs associated with the management of the Cemetery.
- The need to compare costs with other local authority cemeteries in Kent **[Annex 1]**. It should, however, be noted that direct comparison with other cemeteries is difficult as pricing brackets, services and available grave space differ.
- The need for the charging strategy to support the management of the remaining capacity in the Cemetery.

1.2.2 The principles referred to above have been applied to the existing charges and are reflected in the proposed charges shown at **Annex 2**.

1.2.3 A general 2% (CPI) increase is proposed in-line with predicted increases in Grounds Maintenance contract costs. It is anticipated that these proposals will

generate additional net income, against revised budgets for 2019/20 of approximately £1,200, which will be reflected in the draft 2020/21 revenue estimates.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 The Council's Financial Rules require that all fees and charges must be reviewed at least once a year, and be reported to the appropriate Advisory Board.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 The 2018/19 revenue budget (Provisional Outturn) for the management and maintenance of Tonbridge Cemetery was £166,502, with income from the same year totalling £53,075.
- 1.4.2 Charges for the Cemetery are exempt of VAT.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 As highlighted in paragraph 1.1 to this report, the proposed charges take into account a range of factors.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Asset Management and Business Continuity/Resilience.

1.8 Recommendation

- 1.8.1 It is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that the proposed charges for Tonbridge Cemetery as detailed at **Annex 2** be **AGREED** and **IMPLEMENTED** with effect from 1 April 2020.

Background papers:

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Nil

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