



Report of: Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Executive	24 November 2016	Ward(s): All
-----------	------------------	--------------

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
-----------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: Cemetery Fees and Charges 2017

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report proposes the schedule of fees and charges for Islington and Camden Cemetery Service (ICCS) for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. The levels set continue to provide best value for Islington residents whilst maintaining a range of options for all and delivering service improvements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the fees and charges details in Appendix 1 for introduction on the 1st January 2017.
- 2.2 To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to agree any in-year changes to Cemeteries fees and charges.

3. Background

- 3.1 ICCS is a joint service managed by Islington on behalf of both Islington and Camden as a trading operation. It has three sites – East Finchley, Trent Park and Hampstead. The fees and charges need to generate sufficient funds to meet the running costs of the service and reinvest in the infrastructure. Any surplus generated is used to finance service improvements and maintenance on the sites.
- 3.2 The joint service has been in operation for 12 years. There is continuous evaluation of the service to ensure that it meets the needs of our residents and is competitive against private sector providers. A series of service improvements and enhancements have been achieved and more are planned over the next few years, including the introduction of new burial spaces at both the East Finchley and Trent Park sites. The service has increased its share of the market whilst receiving good customer feedback.
- 3.3 ICCS continue to provide an affordable range of options for Islington and Camden residents and are ensuring that the provision will be available for future years. A higher fee is charged for non-residents who wish to use these services.

- 3.4 The fees proposed have been reviewed against actual costs, meaning that several have been able to be retained at existing levels, including our most popular burial option. Where fees are recommended for increase, it is to offset higher supplier costs or to contribute to improvement works at the sites. The proposed fees and charges have been approved by the ICCS Board.
- 3.5 The proposed fees and charges will continue to place ICCS as a mid to low-cost facility when benchmarked with other London cemeteries.
- 3.6 It is important that ICCS continues to be self-financing, whilst remaining affordable and competitive. There may be occasions during the year when costs that the service incurs change, and fees need to be amended to reflect this. In order to accommodate any such minor changes, it is recommended that the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, be delegated the authority to approve such in-year amendments.

4. Implications

Financial implications:

- 4.1 The proposed fees and charges have been set at a level that will meet expected expenditure levels and ensure that the trading account is balanced at year end.

Legal Implications:

- 4.2 The Council is able to set fees and charges for burials, cremations and cemetery services under the provisions of the Local authorities Cemeteries Act 1977 and the Cremation Act 1902.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3 ICCS is accredited to ISO1401 and sites are managed within this framework to lessen their impact on the environment and enhance biodiversity.

Resident Impact Assessment:

- 4.4 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An RIA has been undertaken and no adverse impacts arising from these proposals were identified.

5. Reasons for the recommendations / decision:

- 5.1 It is essential that residents are able to receive a compassionate and cost effective service when they use our cemeteries. The proposed fees and charges have been set at a level where ICCS can ensure that that they continue to maintain offer an excellent service at an affordable price.

Appendix - Proposed Cemeteries fees and charges 2017

Signed by:



Executive Member for Environment and
Transport

4.11.16

Date