

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Cabinet Member

Cllr Steve Albon

Relevant Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Date of Decision:

22 October 2020

Subject:

Cremation and Funeral Services - Reclaiming Fees from Government

Key Decision

No

In Forward Plan

No

Brief summary of matter:

At the beginning of the 2019-20 financial year, fees and charges for funerals for children under the age of 18 years were removed, this followed a decision at the meeting of Council on 6 December 2018. On 23 July 2019, the Children's Funeral Fund was set up by the Government. The report proposes the reintroduction of fees to be claimed directly by the Council from the Children's Funeral Fund.

Decision made:

Cabinet approved the reintroduction of cremation and burial fees for those under the age of 18 solely on the basis that reimbursement of these fees can be reclaimed from the Government via the Children's Funeral Fund.

Reasons for decision:

Thanet District Council waived all fees for those under the age of 18 years from 1st April 2019, this means that the actual cost had to be funded by the Council. With the official fund now in place the decision to reclaim fees from the Government was made to remove the associated budgetary impact.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

The alternative option was to continue with the current fees and charges arrangements i.e. that no charges are made for cremations and burials for those under the age of 18. This option was rejected in favour of reclaiming fees via the Government funding scheme in the interests of supporting the Bereavement Service.

Note: Under no circumstance will there be a payment required by the bereaved family for cremation or burial. The fees are claimed directly by the Council from the Government fund.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Mike Humber, Director of Operations

Background papers

Cremation and Funeral Services - Reclaiming Fees from Government
Annex 1 - Cremation and Funeral Services - Reclaiming Fees from Government EIA

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 4 November 2020