

Public Document Pack

Executive Member Decisions

Friday, 1st December, 2023
10.00 am

AGENDA

1. **EMD - Increase in Charges for Burials and Cremations**
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2. **EMD - Review of Parking Tariffs 2024**
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Date Published: Friday 1st December 2023
Denise Park, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Operations
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	01 December 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Departments

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: Increase in charges for burials and cremations

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The costs of delivering burial and cremation services have increased significantly in the past 12 months due to the spiralling costs of utilities and inflationary pressures on the cost of goods and services, including equipment and vehicles.

The Council reviews fees and charges on an annual basis for those services which can make a charge. Fees and Charges for burials and cremations are usually reviewed and increased each year. This report sets out the proposed increases in fees and charges to be implemented with effect from 1 January 2024 and also provides benchmarking information for surrounding local authorities which provide burials and cremations within their borough boundary.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- Approves the proposed increases in charges for burials and cremations, to be implemented from 1 January 2024.

3. BACKGROUND

The cost associated with the provision of burials and cremations have increased significantly in the past year due to the spiralling costs of utilities and the increasing costs of goods and services, including the purchase and maintenance of equipment and vehicles. The Council is also having to manage broader financial challenges due to inflationary pressures on budgets, which are unfunded.

Fees and charges income makes a valuable contribution to the running costs of cemeteries and crematoria services, enabling these important services to be sustained and provided. The Council normally reviews fees and charges on an annual basis, any increases have taken place on 1 January each year for the majority of services.

The following increases in fees and charges is proposed for burials and cremations:

	2023 Charges	2024 proposed charges	Percentage increase
Grave purchase	£1,450	£1,600	6.08%
Burial – 1 space	£590	£630	6.78%
Burial - 2 space	£640	£680	6.25%
Burial – 3 space	£755	£800	5.96%
Cremation Adult	£920	£980	6.52%

As part of the process of proposing increases in fees and charges, a benchmarking exercise has been conducted with other surrounding local authorities to compare fees and charges for burials and cremations, the results of the benchmarking exercise are detailed in the table below.

It should be noted that the other local authorities in the surrounding area may also decide to increase their fees and charges for burials and cremations in 2024/25.

Benchmarking – Cemeteries and Crematoria charges

Benchmarking Cemeteries and Crematoria charges	BwD proposed charges 2024/25	Current charges in Hyndburn	Current charges in Pendle	Current charges in Burnley	Current charges in Bolton	Current charges at Charnock Richards	Current charges in Blackpool	Current charges in Preston
Grave with Exclusive right of burial and erect memorial	1600	875	1462.50	1446	1080	N/A	1825	1115
Interment - 1 space	630	825	768	1299	804	N/A	N/A	N/a
Interment - 2 space	680	825	861	1299	898	N/A	included in purchase	576
Interment - 3 space	800	N/A	N/A	1299	1010	N/A	N/A	N/A
Large grave	N/A	1725	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Re-open fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	815	N/A
CREMATION								
Full	980	935	N/A	873	980	1150	892	792
No service	660	N/A	N/A	455	450	710	485	450
Saturday	N/A	N/A	N/A	1108	1314	1534	N/A	1078

The Council will continue to provide public health funerals for people who have passed away in the Borough and have no next of kin, or whose next of kin, relatives or friends are unable to make the necessary arrangements for a funeral to ensuring that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their circumstances.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The cost of delivering services at the cemeteries and crematoria have increased significantly due to inflationary pressures.

The Council reviews fees and charges on an annual basis, in recent years, the increase in fees and charges has taken place on 1 January each year for the majority of services.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The increase in charges for burials and cremations and the additional income generated aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and the supporting mission to tackle the budget challenge.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The increases in fees and charges for burials and cremations will generate an additional £130,000 income in 2024/25 based on the average number of burials and cremations conducted each year.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is acting in its legal capacity as a burial authority in setting charges for burial and cremation services.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None – this is an existing service and all resources to deliver the services are in place.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Joanne Byrne/Martin Eden/Tony Watson
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DATE:	17 November 2023
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	
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EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Operations, Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	29 November 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Environment and Operations; Growth and Development Departments

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: Review of Parking Tariffs 2024

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 1st November 2022, all parking tariffs, Monday to Saturday in Blackburn town centre were increased by 20p. Parking tariffs on Sundays were increased by 50p with a £1.50 charge for up to 3 hours parking and a £2.50 charge for parking all day.

Given the financial challenges facing the Council and the continuing changes and improvements to the town centre offer, it is proposed that the parking tariffs are reviewed in 2024.

This report sets out proposals for increasing the parking tariffs on street and off street, Monday to Sunday, to be introduced from Monday 5th February 2024.

The report also sets out proposals to remove the separate parking tariffs for Sundays and to align parking tariffs, so that the same tariffs apply 7 days a week.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Members:

- Approve a 30p increase on all parking tariffs in the town centre to be introduced with effect from Monday 5 February 2024.
- Approve the removal of the separate parking tariffs for Sundays and to implement parking tariffs which apply 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council last increased its parking tariffs in Blackburn Town Centre on 1st November 2022. The main shopper's car park in the town centre is operated by the Mall.

The Mall parking charges for 2023 are listed in the table below. It should be noted that the owners of the Mall may decide to increase their parking charges in 2024:

The Mall car park – open 24 hours	
	Tariffs 2023
Up to 2 hours	£1.90
2 – 4 hours	£2.90
Up to 12 hours	£5.00
Night tariff – between 5.00pm and 7.00am	£1.90
Sunday and Bank Holidays	Normal daily parking charges apply

Options to increase the Council's current Parking Tariffs by 30p

The table below lists the existing parking tariffs and impact of charging an additional 30p on each tariff and the removal of the separate parking tariffs for Sundays in Blackburn Town centre:

	Existing Tariff	Proposed 30p on every tariff
On Street – Short Stay (Monday-Sunday 8am-6pm)		
30 minutes	1.20	1.50
1 hour	1.80	2.10
1hr 30mins	2.40	2.70
2 hours	2.80	3.10
On Street – Long Stay (Monday-Sunday 8am-6pm)		
2 hours	1.90	2.20
4 hours	2.80	3.10
6 hours	3.70	4.00
Over 6 hrs	4.40	4.70
Off Street – Short Stay (Monday-Sunday 8am-6pm)		
1 hour	1.60	1.90
2 hour	2.30	2.60
3 hour	3.00	3.30
5 hour	4.40	4.70
Over 5 hrs	8.60	8.90
Off Street – Long Stay (Monday-Sunday 8am-6pm)		
2 hours	1.90	2.20
4 hours	2.80	3.10
6 hours	3.70	4.00
Over 6 hrs	4.40	4.70
Feilden St Multi-Storey (Monday-Sunday 8am-6pm)		
1 hour	1.60	1.90
2 hours	2.10	2.40
4 hours	3.10	3.40
8 hours	4.30	4.60
Over 8 hrs	6.60	6.90

Sunday parking tariffs

The Council introduced Sunday parking tariffs in 2018, the current tariffs are £1.50 for up to 3 hours parking and £2.50 for over 3 hours parking. It should be noted, the main shopper's car park in Blackburn town centre is operated by the Mall and parking tariffs on the Mall car parks apply 7 days a week. Preston City Centre is the closest city centre shopping offer to Blackburn and parking tariffs in Preston, both on street and off street, apply 7 days a week. Accordingly, it is proposed that the parking tariffs in Blackburn town centre apply 7 days a week, rather than continuing to operate separate parking tariffs on Sundays.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Parking tariffs in Blackburn Town Centre were last increased on 1st November 2022.

Given the continuing financial challenges faced by the Council and the changes and improvements to the town centre offer, it is proposed that the parking tariffs are reviewed for 2024.

The report sets out the option to increase the tariffs charged on street and off street, Monday to Saturday by 30p and the removal of separate parking tariffs on Sundays, so that the same parking tariffs apply 7 days a week.

Increasing parking tariffs will generate additional income for the Council providing the increases are not excessive to the point where they deter people from parking on street or using the Council owned car parks.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal to make a variation order to an existing Traffic Regulation Order requires delegated approval from Executive Member for Growth and Development and the Strategic Director of Environment and Operations.

A notice is required to be publicised in local press and on site to comply with the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed 30p increase in parking tariffs and the introduction of the same parking tariffs, 7 days a week will generate an estimated £159,000 additional income for the Council in line with the budget expectations for parking services.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

A notice of variation is required to implement the proposals pursuant to regulation 25 of the The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. In effect, the proposed changes needs to be advertised with at least 21 days' notice given – in the local circulating newspaper and on site. The notice of variation is not subject to objections.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Updated signage will be required in the car parks to reflect the new tariffs and the software in the Pay and Display machines will require amending to reflect the new tariffs.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Joanne Byrne/Martin Eden
DATE:	15-11-23
BACKGROUND PAPER:	