

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Executive Members

28 February 2025

Fees and Charges for the Bereavement Service

Report of the Assistant Director – Regulation and Harbours

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Corporate Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Managing our Environment to approve fees and charges for the Bereavement Service for 2025-2026

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Approval is sought for fees and charges for the Bereavement Service for 2025/2026. Consideration of inflation and comparison with neighbouring local authority provision has been made in recommending these fees.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Bereavement Service provides a range of services with fees for cremation and income generated collated by the Competition and Markets Authority as part of their work on the funeral sector. Fees, income and other operational statistics are published by The Cremation Society.
- 3.2 Benchmarking of fees has been undertaken across nationally published fees for cremations, and across the Yorkshire and Humber region for burials.

4.0 DETAILED PRESENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE

- 4.1 Cremation fees. The service offers three different cremation service types, accounting for a range of bereaved families wishes and budgets.
- Direct cremations, a dignified acceptance of the deceased with no mourners has been harmonised across all four crematoria.
 - Reduced fee services, which are early slots and include the use of the chapel have been harmonised across all four crematoria.
 - Standard services have a differentiated fee to take account of market forces and neighbouring crematoria.
- 4.2 Exclusive rights of burial fees. The length of future exclusive rights of burial has been harmonised to 50 years from the range of 30 to 100 years in legacy councils. The fee for exclusive rights of burial is variable in line with demand and capacity at different cemeteries.
- 4.3 Interment fees have been harmonised across the Council, with the exception of Richmond Cemetery where the fee for chapel use is differentiated due to the distinct difference in facilities. Triple depth burials are only currently available in a small number of cemeteries with appropriate ground. Due to the very low number of plots now available, the fee for a triple depth burial has been removed from available services. Triple depth burials will be honoured where existing exclusive rights of burial are in place.

4.4 Memorialisation during services such as photographs, music and webcasting are provided via a third party. Fees will be raised in accordance with any changes in fees from the supplier, taking into account inflation, benchmarking and a requirement to ensure that fees account for the costs of the third-party contract.

4.5 Memorial permit fees have been harmonised. Memorials purchased through the Bereavement Service are provided via a third party. Fees will be raised in accordance with any changes in fees from the relevant supplier, considering inflation into account.

5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

5.1 These proposals contribute to the following Council priorities. A well led and managed, financially sustainable and forward-thinking council.

- To operate on a commercial basis where it is appropriate to do so and invest in council owned assets to drive revenue generation opportunities to fund Corporate Plans.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Corporate Fees and Charges Strategy establishes a requirement to review fees and charges within Directorates on an annual basis.

7.2 The proposed fee income is reflective of the 25/26 budget.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 These recommendations harmonise fees where this is appropriate.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION

12.1 It is recommended that the Corporate Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Managing our Environment, approves the revised fees and charges as proposed.

APPENDICES

Appendix A –Bereavement Service – Fees 2025-2026

Callum McKeon
Assistant Director Regulation and Harbours
County Hall
Northallerton
28 February 2025

Report Author – Adrian Clarke, Head of Registrar, Coroner and Bereavement Services
Presenter of Report – Callum McKeon, Assistant Director, Regulation and Harbours

Bereavement Service
Fees effective from 01 April 2025

CREMATORIA FEES				
Cremations	Maple Park	Skipton	Stonefall	Woodlands
Direct (no attendees)	£463	£463	£463	£463
Reduced (Early slot + Chapel)	£695	£695	£695	£695
Service times	9am	9.10am	9am 9.40am	9.15am
Cremation & Service	£1,095	£945	£1,095	£1,095
Additional service time	£350	£200	£350	£350
Cremation (NVF with service)	£195	£195	£195	£195
Cremation (NVF without service)	0	0	0	0
Cremation (Coronial & Hospital requests)	£195	£195	£195	£195
Retention of ashes (per week after first month)	£30	£30	£30	£30
Scattering of ashes (witnessed)	£110	£110	£110	£110
Scattering of ashes (non-witnessed)	£45	£45	£45	£45
Scattering of ashes from a non-NYC crematorium	£125	£125	£125	£125

Bereavement Service Fees 2025-2026

CEMETERY FEES	Cemeteries in the locality of			
	Skipton	Harrogate	Richmond	Scarborough
Purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial for a period of 50 years				
Full Earthen Grave for a casket	£2,400	£2,800	£2,000	£2,800
Full grave for a vault or bricked or wooden grave	£1,800	£2,100	£1,500	£2,100
Construction of a vault	Price on application			
Full Earthen Grave	£1,200	£1,400	£1,000	£1,400
Half Earthen Grave	£600	£700	£500	£700
Single woodland grave	-	£1,200	-	£1,200
Grave for cremated remains	£600	£700	£500	£700
Earthen grave for a still born child	£600	£700	£500	£700
Transfer of burial rights	£100	£100	£100	£100
Copy of deed certificate	£40	£40	£40	£40
Building a vault	Price on application			
Interment				
Child - NVF - 3 months	£400	£400	£400	£400
Child - Baby section	£515	£515	£515	£515
Child under 18 years old (Inter + Chapel)	£1,180	£1,180	£1,080	£1,180
Interment of cremated remains	£250	£250	£250	£250
Interment into a vault or bricked or wooden grave	£980	£980	£980	£980
Full grave for up to 3 interments	Historic purchases only			
Full grave for up to 2 interments	£980	£980	£980	£980
Full grave for a casket	£1,470	£1,470	£1,470	£1,470
Weekend interment surcharge	Price on application			
Chapel for service (Subject to availability)	£200	£200	£100	£200