

B1 What is the Decision?	To freeze the cemetery fees and charges at the current rates until April 2024 and to undertake a review of fees and charges in twelve months' time.
B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?	Freezing cemetery fees and charges until April 2024 recognises the unique economic situation many residents of East Staffordshire are likely to experience in the coming months. With increased fuel and utility bills, the cost of living is likely to see a number of families face financial strain. Freezing fees, whilst not alleviating these concerns, could help to ease the stress of losing a loved one and the financial burden imposed as a result. Furthermore, a 12 month hiatus provides the Council with time to understand the impact of these economic forces on the residents of the borough.
B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	Value for Money Council.
B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

Financial Implications

B5 What are the financial implications?	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <p>The fees and charges policy sets out that service fees should be set to recover the full cost of the service except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an opportunity to maximise income; or • Members agree specific concessions in line with corporate priorities or discounts due to market conditions. <p>The average shortfall in income covering the expenditure in the service over the last 4 year period is £43,000, which has been effectively subsidised by general Council tax payers.</p>
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Revenue	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25

Capital	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25

The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:	Please print name: Lisa Turner Please sign name: Approval by email 160822
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): A price freeze will alleviate some of the pressures of losing a loved one in the current financial situation.
B8.2 Negative (Threats): n/a
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.
B8.4 The equality impact assessment identified the following actions to be carried out: N/a.

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): Cemetery Fees are currently at a mid-range price point of similar sized Councils.
B9.2 Negative (Threats): The Council is currently not recovering the full cost of the service provided.

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:

B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

B10.1 There are no significant legal issues arising from this decision. The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows:

Under Article 15(1) Local Authority Cemeteries Order 1977, made pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972, a local authority acting as a burial authority, may charge such fees as it thinks proper for and in connection with burials in its cemeteries.

The Council has a fiduciary duty to its tax payers, as a whole, to manage its finances in a prudent manner.

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team

Please print name: Glen McCusker – Interim Solicitor

Please sign name: [Approval by email 160822](#)

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications: N/a.

B11.1 The proposal [would/would not] result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).

B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):

B11.3 Negative (Threats):

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:

B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.

B12.2 [The significant hazards and risks have been identified in the Safety Media Risk Assessment numbered []. Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.]

B12.3 [Control measures and an action plan have been identified for any significant hazards and risks identified in the risk assessment. The positive/negative impacts are set out below]

B12.3.1 Positive (Benefits)

B12.3.2 Negative (Threats)

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? No

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

- 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000**
- 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000**
- 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.**

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	NA
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	NA

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

The questions contained in this questionnaire are not to be altered in any way. If you have any queries regarding the contents of this document, please contact Andrea Davies Ext 1306 or refer to Part 3 Section 6 of the Constitution.