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CABINET

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To: Councillors Bailey, Barkley (Deputy Leader), Bokor, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Morgan (Leader), Poland, Rattray, Rollings and Smidowicz (for attention)

All other members of the Council (for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Thursday, 10th February 2022 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields Loughborough

28th January 2022

ITEM 5 - QUESTIONS

5. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

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The deadline for questions is noon on Wednesday, 2nd February 2022.

CABINET – 10TH FEBRUARY 2022

ITEM 5 QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

Councillor M. Draycott – Budget Proposal 2022/23

"Included is an increase charge for Burial costs £10k. Can I ask the Leader instead of the review of all charges being decided under delegated powers, a report instead comes to Cabinet for a decision?"

The Leader, or his nominee will respond:

The Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers states the following:

"Delegation to Heads of Service

1. To undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within his or her service area and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework."

The current amount budgeted for cemetery income is approx. $\pounds 100k$, so to raise the necessary addition $\pounds 10k$ would require an increase of around 10%. Given that the Council has invested approx. $\pounds 1.2m$ in the provision of a new cemetery, the proposed increase in charges is considered to be proportionate and reasonable.

Any increase in charges would be in line with the Council's Charging Policy Framework.

I do not believe that a cabinet report is necessary in this instance for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed increase is not excessive.
- 2. The proposed increase is in line with the Council's Income and Charging Policy.
- 3. The revenue costs of providing the service increase year on year.
- 4. The Council has invested heavily in a new cemetery and some of the costs need to be recouped.
- 5. The increase has been included in the draft budget reports, and will be included in the final budget reports. These will be subject to the normal scrutiny arrangements.