

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. £100k, so to raise the necessary addition £10k would require an increase of around 10%. Given that the Council has invested approx. £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.*