



**POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
10TH NOVEMBER 2009**

SUBJECT: BEREAVEMENT CHARGES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To respond to a Member request.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

2.1 The Public Services Division's aim in the service improvement Plan for 2009/10 in relation to Bereavement Services is:-

"To provide a customer focused, sensitively delivered bereavement service and to achieve excellent standards in cemetery management and maintenance".

3. SUMMARY

3.1 This report was requested by Members on the policy of charging for the interment of children ranging from stillborn to thirteen years of age.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Bereavement Services is one of the most sensitive front-line services provided by the Authority.

4.2 During the financial year 2008-09, the division dealt with 834 interments.

4.3 The current fee structure is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Members will note that there is no charge for the interment of stillborn children or those up to one month, this includes cremated remains.

4.4 The table below details fees levied by this and neighbouring authorities.

Authority	Interment Fee (Full Burial)	Purchase Of Exclusive Right Of Burial	Total
Caerphilly	£571	£28	£599
Merthyr Tydfil	No Fee	£360	£360
Torfaen	£75	£349	£424
Monmouthshire	No Interment Fee	£361 for children under 5 years £578 for those over 5 years	£316 £578
Cardiff	£71	£546	£617
Bridgend	No fee	£924	£924
Powys	£150	£292	£442
Swansea	No fee	£430	£430
Blaenau Gwent	£150	£260	£410

4.5 The chart below outlines the number of interments dealt with during 2008/09, it is categorised into non-viable foetus, stillborn and those not exceeding thirteen years of age.

Year	Non-Viable Foetus	Stillborn	Children (not exceeding thirteen years of age)
2008	2	5	2
2009	2	6	8

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no personnel implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 This report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

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Consultees: Anthony O'Sullivan, Director of the Environment
Mark S. Williams, Head of Public Services
Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services
Derek Price, Parks & Outdoor Facilities Manager
Cllr Ackerman, Cabinet Member for the Environment & Housing