

Council Cabinet 2 September 2008

Matters Referred

68/08 Review of the Council's Bereavement Services

The Council Cabinet considered a report of the Scrutiny Management Commission which stated that at its meeting on 1 July 2007 the Scrutiny Management Commission received a report from Ian Wheatley, Grounds Maintenance Manager and Kate Day, Bereavement Services Manager on the Forward Plan Item 30/07- A review of the Council's Bereavement Services.

Having considered the report provided by the officers, the Commission made the recommendations listed below.

1. That prior to implementation Council Cabinet undertakes a wide consultation on any proposals for the Council's Bereavement Services.
2. That any proposals for the Council's Bereavement Services take into account the actual cost of providing the service and the comparative costs and charges of neighbouring and peer authorities.
3. That in the development of proposals for the service if it is proposed to remove the current subsidies then consideration be given to removing all the subsidies reported to the Commission

Decision

To accept the recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Commission.

69/08 Scrutiny Management Commission Call-in 'Provision of Bereavement Services'

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Scrutiny Management Commission Call-in 'Provision of Bereavement Services'. In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule OS36, the Monitoring Officer called in for scrutiny a decision in respect of the Provision of Bereavement Services (Minute Number 50/08) made by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 29 July 2008. The call-in meeting of the Scrutiny Management Commission took place on 7 August 2008 and at that meeting the Commission resolved that in making its decision Council Cabinet had breached the following principles of decision making:

- b) due consultation and the taking of advice from officers

- c) respect for human rights
- d) a presumption in the favour of openness
- e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- f) a record of what options were considered and giving reasons for the decision

Scrutiny Management Commission resolved to refer the decision back to Council Cabinet for reconsideration and recommended that:

- a) The decision to increase average burial fees from £305 to £366.50 in September 2008 should go ahead but that there should be public consultation on the proposed increase in fees to £428 in April 2009, and that the outcome of this consultation should be considered by Council Cabinet before a decision was taken.
- b) That there should be consultation with the community on the charge for and specification of the vaults provided for Muslim burials, and that Council Cabinet should consider the outcome of the consultation before making any decision to increase these charges.

Decision

To accept the recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Commission.