

STREETPRIDE, LEISURE AND PUBLIC SPACES CABINET MEMBER MEETING

24 November 2022

ITEM 6



Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis,
Service Director Public Protection and
Streetpride
Report author: Sheena Ratcliffe
Acting Bereavement Services Manager

Proposed revision of policy regarding memorial bench donations on Bereavement Services sites

Purpose

- 1.1 Historically memorial benches on Bereavement Services sites have not been recorded or monitored. This causes issues when the memorial bench becomes unsafe due to age and lack of maintenance, as the service have no contact details for the donor to advise of the necessity for removal and replacement.
- 1.2 The aim is to ensure any future memorial bench installations are on a donation basis and the memorial plaque is on a lease basis to ensure regular contact with the donor.
- 1.3 Fixed lease will ensure bench maintenance and improve safety on Bereavement Services sites.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To introduce a policy to lease memorial plaques on donated memorial benches installed within Bereavement Services grounds within Derby City. This will ensure contact with the donor and increase safety to site users.

To offer choice of memorial bench to include re-cycled materials which will increase sustainability and reduce maintenance costs. The introduction of this policy will meet the objectives of The Charter for the Bereaved which encourages choice to families.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 To ensure memorial benches within Bereavement Services grounds are maintained to a safe standard.
- 3.2 Potential of increased income from renewal of memorial plaque lease after a fixed time. If lease not renewed extra income from resale of the leased area.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Bereavement Services receive numerous requests for memorial benches within cemetery and crematorium grounds. Since the covid pandemic demand for memorial bench installation has increased to a level that is unachievable due to available space.
- 4.2 The introduction of a policy will ensure consistency across Bereavement Services sites.
- 4.3 The introduction of the policy will ensure memorial benches are safe for site visitors at the crematorium and city cemeteries as the memorial bench will be safety checked prior to lease renewal and any maintenance requirements will be addressed.
- 4.4 The policy instruction will not incur financial costs to Bereavement Services. It has the potential to increase memorial income across the service.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 No formal engagement undertaken. The increased request from service users to have benches installed at Bereavement Services sites prompted the need for policy to ensure consistency.

Other options

- 6.1 No other options have been considered, the current lack of policy is not sustainable to the service or providing service users with memorial options.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The introduction of a policy will ensure consistency and overtime increase memorial income to the service via renewal of lease.

Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no statutory requirements to provide memorialisation in the form of bench installation though it remains a very popular choice of service users.

Climate implications

- 9.1 The introduction of a recycled option for donors to choose will adhere to the Councils pledge to reduce carbon emissions.

Other significant implications

10.1 Increased choice for service users

Increased maintenance will ensure safety of visitors to bereavement service sites
Increased availability of seating at bereavement services sites to assist the elderly and disabled visitors.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	14.11.2022
Finance	Janice Hadfield	01.11.2022
Service Director(s)	Samantha Dennis	01.11.2022
Report sponsor	Doug Walkman Head of Service	02.11.2022
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices:

APPENDIX 1	Bereavement Services Memorial Bench Terms and Conditions
APPENDIX 2	Bereavement Services Memorial Bench Application Form
APPENDIX 3	Bereavement Services Memorial Bench options and pricing.