Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal

Burial and Cremations (RAIS03)

Intended outcome of proposal

Provide a burial and cremation service which is progressing towards becoming self-financing for both day to day operational activities and also asset improvement works such as the provision of new and extended facilities.

Description of proposal

Proposed amendment to fees and charges for the burial and cremation services, increasing the burial charges by 20% (17% above the Council's 3% increase and the cremation charges by 15%, 12% above the Council's 3% increase).

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes

BO115: We are efficient and cost effective.

BO113: Our infrastructure is safe and fit for the future.

Lead officer details:	
Name of lead officer	Tom Murphy
Job title	Operations Manager, Roads and
	Amenity Services
Department	Roads and Infrastructure
Appropriate officer details:	
Name of appropriate officer	Jim Smith
Job title	Head of Roads and Amenity Services
Department	Roads and Infrastructure
Sign off of EqSEIA	
	Jim Smith.
Date of sign off	11 February 2020

Who will deliver the proposal?	
Tom Murphy	

Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EqSEIA

Consultation / engagement

No staff engagement required.

Notification to funeral directors as and when fee increases are finalised.

Data			

Other information

There are a number of burial grounds across Argyll & Bute which require extensive works to extend these sites and enable additional lair spaces to be made available. The Council is due to be carrying out an online consultation exercise to establish what the needs and expectations of our communities are.

Argyll and Bute Council are currently lower than our neighbouring authorities, the proposed increase in fees and charges will brings Argyll & Bute Council nearer to other neighbouring authorities whilst still providing a competitive rate.

The proposed increase in the cremation fees will take Argyll & Bute Council to a position where we will be slightly more expensive than our neighbouring authorities, however, given the good quality of service the funeral directors frequently raise, the picturesque location and community ties with the facility from both Argyll & Bute, Alexandria and Dumbarton we believe that this raise in fees will not be detrimental to business.

Significant capital works have been carried out recently at the Crematorium including installation of a mercury emissions compliant cremator, works to improve DDA compliance and general works to bring the facility up to modern day standards.

aps in evidence	
one	

Section 3: Impact of proposal

Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:		•		
Age		Χ		
Disability		Χ		
Ethnicity		Χ		
Sex		Χ		
Gender reassignment		Χ		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		Χ		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Χ		
Religion		Χ		
Sexual Orientation		Χ		
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population		Χ		
Island populations		Χ		
Low income				X
Low wealth				X
Material deprivation		Χ		
Area deprivation		Χ		
Socio-economic background		Χ		

		impact		know
Communities of place?		X		
Communities of interest?		X		
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ilpact oil service deliverers (ill	Negative	No	Positive	Don't
	Nogativo	impact	1 0011110	know
Protected characteristics:		•		
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Gender reassignment		Х		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		X		
Pregnancy and Maternity		X		
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Area deprivation		Χ		
Socio-economic background		Χ		
Communities of place?		X		
Communities of interest?		X		
If any 'don't know's have been become identifiable? N/A How has 'due regard' been giv N/A	· ·		•	
Second likely to have a	ction 4: Inter	•		
any other activities carried out council?	•			
Details of knock-on effects ide	ntified		,	

Negative No

Positive

Don't

Section 5: Monitoring and review

How will you monitor and evaluate the equality impacts of your proposal?

None

The service have benchmarked the burial and cremation charges across all Scottish Councils. For burials the range is £351 to £1,107, the average is £783 with Argyll & Bute Council charging £693. For cremation the range is £365 to £1,070, with an average of £792 with Argyll & Bute Council charging £685.