

Barrow Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
7 December 2022
Memorial Bench Policy

Report from: Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager
Report Author: Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager
Wards: All Wards

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

This report asks Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the attached revised Barrow Borough Council Memorial Bench Policy for Barrow owned Cemeteries and other land owned by the Council.

2.0 Recommendation

- (i) It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and provide any comment on the attached revised Memorial Bench Policy and make recommendations to Executive Committee for adoption.**

3.0 Background and Current Position

3.1 Executive Committee on 10th November 2021 agreed a set of guidelines for the installation of memorial benches on Council owned land.

3.2 A review of the Policy was incorporated into the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme on the 10th November 2022 the Memorial Bench Work Group discussed the Memorial Bench Policy and recommended the following changes.

- (i) Due to the volume of memorial benches already in place, no new benches should be permitted around the coastline of Walney Island.
- (ii) When applying for a bench customers will be informed that planting or placing tributes around the bench is not permitted. Any tributes placed around the bench will be removed.
- (iii) The bench will be recycled plastic as opposed to hardwood
- (iv) Any unauthorised benches will be removed.
- (v) The fee is subject to any annual increase in line with the Council's fees and charges.

3.3 The amendments have been incorporated into a revised Policy and if Members agree them, then they are asked to recommend them to Executive Committee

for adoption. The current policy dated November 2021 and the proposed revised policy dated December 2022 are attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

4 Consultation

4.1 Any comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be included in the Executive Committee report.

4.2 If adopted the policy will be displayed on the Council website and customer services will be made aware of this to inform customers. Ward Members will be encouraged to let residents know of this new policy.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 The alternative option is not to make any revisions to the policy. This is not recommended as the revised policy sets out clearer guidelines with regards to the location and the type of bench permitted.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 The Council Plan key priority is to ensure that residents are at the heart of all that the Council does and that the environment is clean, green and well managed. The provision of standardised memorial benches with the opportunity to personalise plaques will directly contribute to that.

7.0 Implications

7.1 Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 The ordering of the benches will be on receipt of payment. There is no cancellation of order provision after signing the agreement.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 Members of the public should be informed and agree from the outset that the bench will be removed if it comes into disrepair and is no longer safe to the public.

7.3 Local Government Reorganisation

There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

7.4 Equality and Diversity

7.4.1 All benches will be DDA compliant.

7.5 Risk

7.5.1 The demand for benches may outstrip the available locations. A further piece of work if capacity of Officers allow may be to determine whether any of the existing benches have gone beyond their lifespan or are beyond repair and damaged. On a case by case basis any existing benches which are deemed to be beyond repair will be removed. Families would need to apply under the new policy for a replacement which would be a standard bench.

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Memorial Bench Policy – November 2021
2	Memorial Bench Policy – December 2022

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
1	Memorial Bench Policy