

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

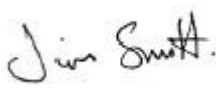
Section 1: About the proposal

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	
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 bring 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.

Gaps in evidence

None

Section 3: Impact of proposal**Impact on service users:**

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

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Communities of place?		X		
Communities of interest?		X		

Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc):

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

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

N/A

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?

N/A

Section 4: Interdependencies

Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the council?

No

Details of knock-on effects identified

None

Section 5: Monitoring and review

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

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.