

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Policy Screening Form

1.	Policy Reference (Equality use only)	E 225
2.	Policy Name	Cemeteries Pricing Policy 2021 - 2022
3.	Existing / Revised / New Policy	Existing Policy
4.	Responsible Officer	Head of Leisure and Amenities
5.	Description of policy to be screened	A list of prices for the public to use cemetery services, including the purchase of graves, interments and memorials etc. The Council has always had a burial pricing policy, this screening is for the pricing policy itself and also for the proposed increase in prices by approximately 5% for 2021-22. There are substantially different prices for residents and non-residents of the Borough but these are based on use of the cemeteries for those who live in or have spent a considerable part of their life as a resident of the borough.
	Aims and Expected Outcomes – what is the Policy expected to achieve?	The policy aims to achieve a fair and equitable pricing structure for the cemetery services, delivering value for ratepayers and appropriate prices for all services. The increase in prices is necessary to reflect price increases for staffing and materials, in addition to restrictions and new working arrangements on staffing due to the covid-19 pandemic.
6.	Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit and how they may benefit.	No particular Section 75 categories will benefit as the pricing policy is intended to be equally applied to everyone within the criteria of the pricing policy.
7.	Factors which could contribute to / detract from the intended aims / outcomes of the Policy when being implemented	The pricing policy should be equally applied, unequal application for example discounts or free of charge services based on age would detract from the aims of the policy.
8.	The main stakeholders on whom the policy will impact. For example, Employees, Potential Service	The main stakeholders for this policy are families of the bereaved. Other main stakeholders are the Council, Elected members, employees of the Council,

	Users and Community Groups Consider the internal and external impacts (either actual or potential) and comment, or list, information where appropriate	individuals of faith and non-faith that organise and deliver the funeral services. Memorial masons and funeral directors as it is through them that payment is normally received; they then charge the family the price that they were charged in addition to the cost of their services.
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9.	Please provide details of other policies which have a bearing on this one.	
	E12: Burial Rules E14: Sustainability and Environmental Policy E 28: Corporate Complaints policy and procedure E 41:Burial Charges and Boundary Change Considerations for opening or transfer of graves E 58:Ards and North Down Borough Council Pricing Schedule 2016-2017 E 153:Customer Care Strategy E 159:Introduction of the removal of burial charges for under 18 years old E196: Corporate Plan 2020-24	Ards and North Down Borough Council

10.	Available evidence (quantitative and qualitative) considered as important to encourage completion in relation to :																			
Religious Belief	<p>Summary: The Northern Ireland Census 2011 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area showed that 75% are or have been brought up in Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions. While this varied across the borough from 17% in Portaferry ward to 87% in Carrowdore ward this does not have any relation to this policy. These compared to 48% for Northern Ireland as a whole. See table below</p> <p>Data: Religion or Religion Brought up in (Numbers with % in brackets)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="462 1333 1421 1829"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>All usual residents</th> <th>Catholic</th> <th>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</th> <th>Other Religions</th> <th>None</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>1,810,863 (100%)</td> <td>817,385 (45%)</td> <td>875,717 (48%)</td> <td>16,592 (1%)</td> <td>101,169 (6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>156,672 (100%)</td> <td>20,550 (13%)</td> <td>117,589 (75%)</td> <td>1,729 (1%)</td> <td>16,804 (11%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Religion or religion brought up in. Census 2011, NISRA</p>			All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Other Religions	None	Northern Ireland	1,810,863 (100%)	817,385 (45%)	875,717 (48%)	16,592 (1%)	101,169 (6%)	Ards and North Down Borough Council	156,672 (100%)	20,550 (13%)	117,589 (75%)	1,729 (1%)	16,804 (11%)
	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Other Religions	None															
Northern Ireland	1,810,863 (100%)	817,385 (45%)	875,717 (48%)	16,592 (1%)	101,169 (6%)															
Ards and North Down Borough Council	156,672 (100%)	20,550 (13%)	117,589 (75%)	1,729 (1%)	16,804 (11%)															
Political	Summary:																			

Opinion

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections detail the political representation on Ards and North Down Council, The Stormont Executive for this electoral area and Westminster election. This data is an approximate measure of political opinion of the voting electorate within the Borough. Turnout to vote in North Down and Strangford constituencies tend to be lower than the rest of NI suggesting less strong political opinions. Of those who do turn out, the results show preferences for voting Unionist parties.

See table below

Data:

Council Election results

The most recent local council election (2nd May 2019) showed:

	Eligible Electorate	Votes Polled (% Turnout)	Elected Candidate										
			DUP	Sinn Féin	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Independent	TUV	Green	PUP	Aontu	CCLA
Northern Ireland	1,305,553	687,733 (52.7%)	122	105	75	59	53	24	6	8	3	1	1
Ards and North Down Borough Council	112,077	47,161 (42.1%)	14		8	1	10	3	1	3			
Ards Peninsula (DEA)	16,656	7,369 (44.2%)	3		1	1	1						
Bangor Central (DEA)	17,194	6,678 (38.8%)	2		1		1	1		1			
Bangor East and Donaghadee (DEA)	16,956	6,915 (40.8%)	2		2		1	1					
Bangor West (DEA)	13,479	5,448 (40.4%)	1		1		2			1			

Comber (DEA)	13,681	6,272 (45.8%)	2	1	1	1	1						
Hollywood and Clandeboye (DEA)	14,158	6,229 (44.0%)	1	1	2			1					
Newtownards (DEA)	19,953	8,250 (41.4%)	3	1	2	1							

Source: [The Electoral Office, NI](#)

Racial Group

Summary:

NISRA, NINIS and Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership data provide up to date data. The 2011 census showed that 32,000 (1.8%) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland is from a minority ethnic background. Within the borough, the 2011 Census showed that 1.5% (2,300) were from a minority ethnic background. Across the borough this ranged from 5.2% in Loughview ward to 0.3% in Lisbane ward.

See table below

Data:

Ethnic Group (Numbers with % in brackets)

	All usual residents	White	Chinese	Indian	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Black African	Black Other	Mixed	Other
Northern Ireland	1,810,863 (100%)	1,778,449 (98%)	6,303 (0%)	6,198 (0%)	540 (0%)	6,089 (0%)	2,345 (0%)	1271 (0%)	6,014 (0%)	3,654 (0%)
Ards and North Down Borough Council	156,672 (100%)	154,365 (99%)	406 (0%)	283 (0%)	177 (0%)	415 (0%)	139 (0%)	132 (0%)	556 (0%)	199 (0%)
Ards Peninsula	22,797 (100%)	22,641 (99%)	29 (0%)	17 (0%)	5 (0%)	17 (0%)	6 (0%)	2 (0%)	54 (0%)	26 (0%)
Bangor Central	23,524 (100%)	24,469 (98%)	105 (0%)	43 (0%)	17 (0%)	43 (0%)	26 (0%)	32 (0%)	119 (0%)	38 (0%)
Bangor East and Donaghadee	24,892 (100%)	22,648 (99%)	56 (0%)	27 (0%)	10 (0%)	91 (0%)	11 (0%)	2 (0%)	82 (0%)	19 (0%)
Bangor West	22,946 (100%)	17,763 (98%)	19 (0%)	135 (0%)	2 (0%)	116 (0%)	3 (0%)	26 (0%)	73 (0%)	15 (0%)

Comber	18,152 (100%)	18,216 (99%)	30 (0%)	8 (0%)	9 (0%)	35 (0%)	4 (0%)	8 (0%)	55 (0%)	17 (0%)
Hollywood and Clandeboyne	18,382 (100%)	20,061 (98%)	65 (0%)	31 (0%)	23 (0%)	81 (0%)	81 (0%)	56 (0%)	10 (0%)	61 (0%)
Newtownards	20,560 (100%)	27,841 (99%)	105 (0%)	20 (0%)	111 (0%)	30 (0%)	8 (0%)	6 (0%)	75 (0%)	20 (0%)

Source: [Ethnic Group, Census 2011, NISRA](#)

Age
NISRA have published population projections for the Borough which show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years.
ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland.
See table below

Data:

Age Groups (Numbers with % in brackets)

	0-15	16-39	40-64	65+	Total
Northern Ireland	385,200 (21%)	583,116 (31%)	591,481 (32%)	291,824 (16%)	1,851,621 (100%)
Ards and North Down Borough Council	29,801 (19%)	43,239 (27%)	54,094 (34%)	31,663 (20%)	158,797 (100%)

Sources: [Demography and Methodology Branch, NISRA](#)
[World Health Organization](#)

Marital Status
The 2011 Northern Ireland Census showed that 48% of adults (those aged over 16 years of age) in Northern Ireland were either married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership. Within the borough, 54% of adults fell into this category. This varies across the borough from 36% in Central (Ards) ward to 64% in Lisbane ward.
See table below

Data:

Marital Status (All aged 16+) (Numbers with % in brackets)

	All usual residents	Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	Married	In a registered same-sex civil partnership	legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership
Northern Ireland	1,431,540 (100%)	517,393 (36%)	680,831 (48%)	1,243 (0%)	56,911 (4%)	78,074 (5%)	97,088 (7%)

					%)				
	Ards and North Down Borough Council	126,945 (100%)	36,730 (29%)	67,866 (53%)	12,303 (10%)	4,328 (3%)	8,548 (7%)	9,350 (7%)	

Source: [Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status](#)

Sexual orientation	<p>Summary: It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA are currently examining methodology on how to measure this. However, the 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of the Northern Ireland adult population (those aged 16 years and over) were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This was similar to the borough as a whole. The Continuous Household Survey in Northern Ireland estimated this figure between 0.9% and 1.9% in 2015-2016. The Office for National Statistics estimates a similar range for the United Kingdom (1.7%).</p> <p>Source: Northern Ireland 2011 Census, Marital Status ONS 2015 Sexual Identity</p>
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Men & Women generally	<p>According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland were male (49%) and this was similar throughout Ards and North Down Borough Council (48%). See table below</p> <p>Data:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Males</th> <th>Females</th> <th>All</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Northern Ireland</td> <td>887,323 (49%)</td> <td>923,540 (51%)</td> <td>1,810,863 (100%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down Borough Council</td> <td>75,920 (48%)</td> <td>80,752 (52%)</td> <td>156,672(100%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Age Structure, Census 2011, NISRA Review of statistical classification and delineation of settlements, NISRA</p>		Males	Females	All	Northern Ireland	887,323 (49%)	923,540 (51%)	1,810,863 (100%)	Ards and North Down Borough Council	75,920 (48%)	80,752 (52%)	156,672(100%)
	Males	Females	All										
Northern Ireland	887,323 (49%)	923,540 (51%)	1,810,863 (100%)										
Ards and North Down Borough Council	75,920 (48%)	80,752 (52%)	156,672(100%)										

Disability	<p>The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North Down area had a health issue or disability (including those related to old age) which has lasted or expected to last at least 12 months. (This was similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 21%.)</p> <p>Disability Living Allowances, 2015</p>
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		2015 (Disability Living Allowance Recipients)	2015 (Multiple Disability Benefits) *MDB is aggregated data from Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data, and data for Employment and Support allowance
	Northern Ireland	209,280	251,490
	Ards and North Down Borough Council	13,840	18,080
	Ards Peninsula	2,920	n/a
	Bangor Central	2,250	n/a
	Bangor East and Donaghadee	1,740	n/a
	Bangor West	1,650	n/a
	Comber	1,270	n/a
	Holywood and Clondeboyne	1,180	n/a
	Newtownards	2,840	n/a
	Northern Ireland Census 2011 Long-term health problem or disability by long-term problem or disability		
Dependents	<p>Summary: In considering this dimension the following have been included: persons with responsibility for the care of a child, children, a person with a disability and or an older person. According to the Continuous Household Survey, 2013-2016, 37% of Ards and North Down claimed to have a dependent (This did not differentiate on the type of dependent). According to the 2011 Census, 7,474 households in Ards and North Down had a dependent child under the age of 4 (This might give an indication on the numbers who would have buggies or prams). Sources: Continuous Household Survey</p>		

11.	Based on data previously provided what are the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the following categories, in relation to this policy/decision?	
	Religious Belief	The needs of all groups with relation to cemeteries are very broadly the same, that is, for availability of burial or burial of cremated remains in Council cemeteries at an affordable price. There are some religious beliefs that prescribe that the dead must be buried in particular direction or that certain practices such as cremation are prohibited. Where these can
	Political Opinion	
	Racial Group	
	Age	
	Marital Status	
	Sexual orientation	

	Men & Women generally	be met this is adhered to – however this policy is in relation to cost of the services and the criteria is not an additional cost. Under 18 year olds are all buried free of charge within Council policy.
	Disability	
	Dependents	

Does this Policy require an Equality Impact Assessment?

1.	What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for each of the Section 75 categories?		
		Detail of Impact	Level of Impact Minor/Major/None
	Religious Belief	There is an equal impact on all Section 75 groups of the prices for cemetery services increasing. However, it may be that this impact will be greater for some people with disabilities and some in the older or younger age groups as their income may be tied to Universal Credit which has not increased by a similar amount.	None
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		
	Age		
	Marital Status		
	Sexual orientation		
	Men & Women generally		
	Disability		
	Dependents		

2.	Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?		
		If "Yes", provide details	If "No", provide details
	Religious Belief	No, it is not possible to have lower prices to mitigate the impact listed above as to do so would undermine the ability of officers and the Council to implement the policy. The annual increase has been applied equitably across the full range of the services provided through the cemeteries and burial services.	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		
	Age		
	Marital Status		
	Sexual orientation		
	Men & Women generally		
	Disability		
	Dependents		

3.	To what extent is the Policy likely to impact on Good Relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
		Details of Impact	Level of Impact Minor/Major/None
	Religious Belief	There is no impact on Good Relations as a result of these prices as they apply equally to all people or different Religious Belief, Political Opinion or Racial Groups	
	Political Opinion		
	Racial Group		

4.	Are there opportunities to better promote Good Relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
		If "Yes" provide details	If "No" provide details

Religious Belief	No, the prices must apply equally to all people and there is no difference for any needs in relation to the Good Relations dimensions.
Political Opinion	
Racial Group	

Additional Considerations

Multiple Identity Considerations	Details of Impact or potential impact (Positive/Negative)
<p>Are there any potential impacts of the policy decision on people with multiple identities? (e.g. disabled minority ethnic persons). Where appropriate provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.</p>	<p>This policy will affect a breadth of multiple identities but all will be required to meet the cost of the service within the Council policy.</p>

Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006

Does this proposed policy provide an opportunity to:	Yes / No	Explain your reasoning:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>better promote positive attitudes</u> towards disabled people - <u>increase participation</u> by disabled people in public life 	No	<p>This policy is well documented and available from a range of Council sources for any individual wishing to find out the cost of burial.</p> <p>The information will also be made available in an alternative format if required.</p>

Monitoring Arrangements

Section 75 places a requirement on the Council to have equality monitoring arrangements in place to assess the impact of policies and services, help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity.

<p>Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on <u>equality, good relations and disability duties</u></p>	<p>Council will monitor for complaints and comments and will collate the Section 75 dimensions of those making complaints or comments within the Council policy.</p>
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I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision have been screened for:-

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabilities duties

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is:-

X	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
	Please detail actions to be taken:

Screening assessment completed by:-

Name: Edward Gregson
 Title: Administration Officer – Leisure and Amenities
 Date: 08/12/2020
 Signature:

Director/Head of Service decision approved by:

Name: John McConnell
 Title: Parks, Cemeteries & Amenities Manager
 Date: 08/12/2020
 Signature:

If an Equality Impact Assessment is required

Priority Rating for Timetabling an Equality Impact Assessment. (1-3)	Priority Criterion	Rating
	Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
	Social need	
	Effect on people's daily lives	
	Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Is this Policy Affected by Timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?	
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Monitoring Recommendation	
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	Approval and Authorisation	Position/Job Title:	Date:
	Screened by:	Administration Officer – Leisure & Amenities	08/12/2020
	Approved by:	Parks, Cemeteries & Amenities Manager	08/12/2020