



COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

PWNC | SUBJECT: BEREAVEMENT SERVICES – CONCESSIONARY CHARGES IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to propose a policy for the concessionary reduction of burial/cremation fees in exceptional circumstances and in particular, whereby there are multiple funeral services required within one close family circle.


PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

That a financial concession is to be afforded to families requiring multiple funeral services within their close family circle. This concession is to be applied during exceptional circumstances (e.g. global pandemic).

The concession is applicable if multiple services are held consecutively; only one cremation or burial fee will be charged by the Council (the fee in place at that time including any supplementary service charges).

This concession will apply should close family members require burial/cremation services due to the loss of multiple family members in exceptional circumstances. Close family members include mother, father, children and civil partners.

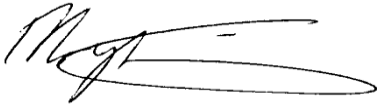
The granting of the concession will be the responsibility of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services, in agreement with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.

	Paul Mee	23.11.20
Llofnod y Prif Swyddog Chief Officer Signature	Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	Dyddiad Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION



22.11.20

LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET
CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

LLOFNOD SWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL
CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DYDDIAD | DATE

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYN A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YDY | YES NAC YDY | NO ✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

.....

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | Presiding Member) (Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Councils Website:- _____ 24-11-20 _____

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar / Subject to Call In the implementation date will be

30.11.20

DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	David Batten
Swydd Designation:	Head of Leisure, Parks, Countryside and Bereavement Services
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	07813 839245

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

12th NOVEMBER 2020

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES – CONCESSIONARY CHARGES IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Author: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks, Countryside and Bereavement Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to propose a policy for the concessionary reduction of burial/cremation fees in exceptional circumstances and in particular, where there are multiple funeral services required within one close family circle.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 A financial concession be afforded to families requiring multiple funeral services within their close family circle. This concession is to be applied during exceptional circumstances (e.g.) global pandemic.
- 2.2 The concession is applicable if multiple services are held consecutively; only one cremation or burial fee will then be charged by the Council (the fee in place at that time including any supplementary service charges).
- 2.3 This concession will apply should close family members require burial/cremation services due to the loss of multiple family members in exceptional circumstances. Close family members include mother, father, children and civil partners.
- 2.4 The granting of the concession will be the responsibility of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services in agreement with the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 There is no policy in place that allows for a reduction in funeral/cremation fees in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.2 The concession is to be applied in order to reduce the financial burden on remaining family members.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Coronavirus pandemic has served to highlight that the Council has no policy in place that allows for a reduction in fees under exceptional circumstances.
- 4.2 Coronavirus is obviously one example of exceptional circumstances, there are unfortunately other examples where a Council concessionary fee policy for multiple funeral services could be applied e.g. road traffic accidents resulting in multiple deaths.
- 4.3 Funeral poverty is a growing issue in the UK, including Wales. Whilst there are schemes available whereby the bereaved can apply for assistance with funeral costs, in reality these schemes are difficult to apply for and the complexity means that take up is low. The introduction of a concessionary fee reduction under exceptional circumstances gives the Council an opportunity to give low key support in deserving circumstances without these affected having to formally apply at the most difficult time.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for this report. A full assessment is not required at this time.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Wellbeing and Cultural Services has been fully consulted on the proposal to introduce concessionary fees for exceptional circumstances.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 It is impossible to predict the actual number of multiple bereavements, however the service estimates that this would be unlikely to arise on no more than five occasions per annum. That being the case, a prudent estimate of lost income would be £5K per annum.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal outlined in this report.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The proposal ensures the continued provision of quality, affordable services for local people supporting the Council's work in delivering its Corporate Plan priorities of People, Place and Prosperity.

9.2 The proposal considers the impact and financial support for people currently living in the County Borough and those in the future (sustainable development principle) therefore enabling positive contributions to be made toward meeting the seven national wellbeing goals of the Well Being of Future Generations Act.

10. **CONCLUSION**

10.1 The proposal puts in place a transparent policy that allows the Council to give a concessionary discount of bereavement fees in exceptional circumstances.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

12TH NOVEMBER 2020

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**BEREAVEMENT SERVICES – CONCESSIONARY CHARGES IN EXCEPTIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES**

Officer to contact: David Batten, Head of Leisure, Parks, Countryside and Bereavement
Services – Tel: 07813 839245