

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2012
title: CONFIRMATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSISTED FUNERALS
PUBLIC HEALTH (CONTROL OF DISEASE) ACT 1984 – BURIAL AND
CREMATION
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of new contract arrangements to deal with public health assisted funerals.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – To ensure a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer need.
- Community Objectives – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
- Corporate Priorities – No implications identified.
- Other Considerations – No implications identified.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council has a duty to arrange and pay for the burial and cremation of the dead when the deceased person has no other person or means to arrange it.

2.2 It is usual for the Council to be approached with requests each year for an assisted funeral. In most cases we are able to trace a next of kin and as such we have only needed to pay for two funerals during the past five years.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Until last month, the Council had a three-year contract with a local undertaker, Calverleys Funeral Service (Clitheroe), to provide a decent yet basic service. This contract has now expired and four local undertakers were approached and invited to tender for the 2012/2015 contract.

3.2 Surprisingly, only one reply was received, from William Houghton Funeral Director (Longridge) and I am pleased to report that the costs are similar to those previously agreed, £640 plus standard fees (crematorium/cemetery/doctors etc) and therefore William Houghton have been awarded the contract.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications – No implications.

5 **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 That Committee be aware of the duty of the Council to make suitable arrangements for assisted burials and with whom arrangements are in place.

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

JAMES RUSSELL
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 – Section 46 – Burial and Cremation.

For further information please ask for James Russell, extension 4466.

REF: MR/JAR/EL/HEALTH & HOUSING/310512