

Timely and Inclusive Burial Provision in Three Rivers

Proposer: Councillor Abbas Merali

Seconder: Councillor Christopher Alley

This Committee notes:

That in several faith traditions, including Islam and Judaism, there is a religious requirement to bury the deceased as soon as possible, often on the same day or within 24 hours of death. Current burial arrangements in Three Rivers do not always accommodate these needs, particularly outside of normal working hours and at weekends.

This Committee recognises that the ability to bury loved ones quickly and with dignity is a deeply important issue for many residents in our district. As a local authority serving a multi-faith community, it is vital that our burial services reflect and respect these needs.

This Committee therefore resolves to recommend that officers:

1. Review the current cemetery and burial service provision to ensure that same-day or within 24-hour burials can be facilitated where required.
2. Explore the feasibility of providing weekend and out-of-hours burials to meet the needs of faith communities.
3. Consult with local faith leaders and community representatives to identify practical steps that would enable the council to deliver timely and inclusive burial services.
4. Report back within [6 months] with recommendations on policy, resourcing, and operational changes needed to implement these measures.