

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
20th January 2016**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor John Powell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gemma Bowker

Could the portfolio holder please provide reassurance that, following the significant increases in fees for bereavement services to full recovery rates, the bereavement service is being as well and efficiently run as possible and offering those having to meet these charges at a difficult time are provided with high levels of care and value for money?

In 2015, a review of the fees for bereavement services was undertaken. The review concluded that the existing fees did not cover the cost of the service. Furthermore when compared with other Welsh authorities, were found to be in the lowest quartile. Although significant, the increased fees introduced in January 2016 will not mean that the service is achieving full cost recovery, but will result in considerable progress being made towards achieving this in the future.

The existing service will continue to offer an efficient but considerate service to bereaved families during their difficult time.