

<b>Decision maker:</b>	<b>Acting Assistant Director for Technical Services, Director of Economy and Place</b>
<b>Decision date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 30 April 2019</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Nomination of charities for the recycling of metals scheme</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Direct Services Manager</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

Non-key

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose and summary**

The Council has, for a number of years, participated in a recycling of metal scheme organised and managed by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM). This report outlines the process for determining the bi-annual nomination of charities to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management board for consideration with regard to this scheme.

## **Recommendation(s)**

That:

- (a) **The Assistant Director Technical Services be authorised to approve each charity selected for nomination to this scheme.**

## **Alternative options**

1. The Council could decide not to nominate a charity to the ICCM recycling of metals scheme. This is not recommended as charities would miss out on the opportunity of benefiting from donations.

## Key considerations

2. Artificial joints and coffin fixings left following cremation were up until October 2005 buried in the crematorium Garden of Remembrance. At this time, the Environment Agency determined that metals separated from the cremated remains become waste and must therefore comply with current waste legislation in the way they are to be handled and disposed of. This now prevents the practice of disposing of metals in the crematorium grounds.
3. In recognition of the changes, The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) set up a national agreement with Ortho Metals to provide a service whereby they collect metals remaining after cremation and process for recycling. Family members are given the choice to opt out of the decision to have any metals collected from the person being cremated when completing cremation forms.
4. Ortho Metals collect metals from Hereford Crematorium twice a year. After deduction of their costs, the proceeds are given to the ICCM who then request that participating crematorium authorities nominate a death related charity to receive the authority related proportion of the proceeds.
5. Details of the scheme are available on the Herefordshire Council website; this includes the process for relevant charities to submit their nomination. A charity must be death related and would ideally, but not exclusively, be local to Herefordshire.
6. Bereavement Services, having taken into consideration all applications, nominate a charity that meets the criteria; this includes not being nominated within the previous three years. The rationale for the nomination will then be shared with the Assistant Director for Technical Services for a decision.
7. The Communications team will promote the scheme to local charities through tailored material via specialist voluntary sector communication channels. The outcome of any allocation of proceeds from the scheme will be reported in the relevant performance report, and the Communications team will work directly with the relevant charity contacts to generate coverage of the benefits of the scheme to the nominated charities and the council.

## Community impact

8. There is a positive impact on Herefordshire as this decision enables local charities to benefit from donations from the scheme.

## Equality duty

9. This recommendation will ensure support to charities locally, assisting them in providing essential services/support to people living in Herefordshire.

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
10. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this is a decision on back office functions, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

## Resource implications

11. There are no resource implications with this decision.

## Legal implications

12. The council has the legal power to make donations under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which allows the council to spend a limited amount of money on matters for which they have no specific power but which the council consider "will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants". If the council is satisfied that any donation meets the requirement of the General Power of Competence, any such donation will be made under the Localism Act 2011 s1 to 8.

## Risk management

- 13.

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Families do not want metals remaining following cremation to disposed of in this manner	The process is explained on a cremation form which the family has to sign and they have the option to have any metal returned
Charities are not aware of the scheme or the selection criteria	Information is available on the Council website
Charities feel the process to select a charity is not transparent	A record of officer decision will be completed on every occasion
Funding for charities	Making a nomination to the ICCM scheme enables the council to support charities

14. The above will be managed at a service level.

## Consultees

15. None

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background papers**

None identified