

APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERAL POLICY

Response to the Consultation for the arrangements to provide Public Health Funerals in North Herts

As part of the consultation for the arrangements to provide Public Health Funerals in North Herts, several responses were received; the points below are the answers to those responses.

- One response fully supported the arrangements presented in the draft Policy.

- Can the referral process for those seeking access to Public Health Funerals be made clearer and better identify who can make such a referral, or request.
 - The policy was amended to include a direct access pathway for those wishing to request the Council to make the arrangements for a Public Health Funeral. There is no clear statement as to who could make such a request, as to do so may imply that those not listed may not be able to make such a request. Instead, there is the statement saying that if nobody is willing or able to make the arrangements, then the Council can be contacted.

- Can the Policy better define the timeframe in which the funeral will be carried out.
 - The Act requires the Council to make the arrangements necessary for the funeral if no other arrangements are or are likely to be put in place. There is no legal provision for a timeframe, and as such, it is not possible for the Council to introduce one. The reason for this is that there are often many inherent matters that need to be agreed before the funeral can take place so introducing a set timeframe is not likely to be practicable. Instead, requiring the funeral to take place as soon as practicable is the most reasonable option for this matter.