

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Receiving Cremated Remains

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Samantha Dand, Director of Environment

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary (taken from written report)

The Authority, in its capacity as Cremation Authority, has agreed to receive one set of cremated human remains relating to a non-viable foetus from Northumbria Healthcare Trust and to arrange for these cremated remains to be respectfully scattered within the Authority's Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance at Tynemouth Crematorium.

5. Alternative Options considered

Not to agree to the Authority accepting the cremated remains and for the remains to remain in the care of Northumbria Healthcare Trust. Choosing that option would have meant that these individuals remains could not be properly laid to rest.

6. Decision(s)

To accept the cremated remains (ashes) from Northumbria Healthcare Trust and for the cremated remains to be decently scattered within Tynemouth Crematoriums Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

To provide a respectful and dignified laying to rest of the non-viable foetus whose remains were being retained by Northumbria Healthcare Trust, the decision was taken to accept the remains so that they could be respectfully laid to rest in Tynemouth Crematoriums Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance, and the location of the disposal properly recorded

It is recommended that the Authority accepts the cremated remains as it has undertaken due diligence by asking the Trust to write to the mother. The scattering of the ashes in a respectful and dignified manner in the Snowdrop Garden of Remembrance is in the interest of finally laying this foetus to rest. As stated, there will be an official record of where the remains are scattered.

The decision was taken only after all possible steps to try and contact the mother of the deceased had been exhausted.

As would be expected, the decision was taken only after a thorough investigation of the circumstances was carried out by officers who consulted with the appropriate authorities. All the authorities agreed that it would be proper for the Authority to accept the cremated remains so as to provide the deceased with a fitting place of rest. If the Authority did not accept the remains, then they would have remained in storage and would not have been afforded a proper resting place.

Considering all information available to me, I believe this to be the right decision.

8. Date Decision Made

1 August 2025

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

5pm on 11 August 2025

10. Date of Publication

4 August 2025

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

12 August 2025

Note: *The Report in relation to the decision indicated above is 'Not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)'.