

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER

### COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012

#### NEW CREMATORIUM IN VALE OF GLAMORGAN

##### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Joint Committee on the impact of the new Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium.

##### 2. Background

- 2.1 Coychurch Crematorium was established in 1971 to serve the local community, which was then divided into District Councils. In 1996, the management was re-established to take into consideration new local government authority boundaries and is now controlled by a Joint Committee comprising representatives of Bridgend County Borough Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council. Initially, there was a contribution from controlling Councils to purchase the site and establish the Crematorium. An annual contribution was made by each Council towards the running costs of the premises. In the late 1990's, this subsidy was no longer required as the Crematorium became self-financing.
- 2.2 The new privately operated Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium became fully operational in October 2011 and offers a chapel and burial ground.
- 2.3 In the 12 months preceding the opening of the Crematorium, there was a total of **1752** cremations registered in Coychurch Crematorium, 780 from Bridgend County Borough Council, 594 from Vale of Glamorgan, 302 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 76 from other areas.
- 2.2 Coychurch Crematorium's charges totalled £925,432 with 133 burial plots purchased throughout that period.

##### 3. Current Situation

- 3.1 In the 12 months following the opening of the new Crematorium, there was a reduction in the number of cremations to **1453**. These included 866 from Bridgend County Borough Council, 207 from Vale of Glamorgan, 316 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 64 others.
- 3.2 Whilst the Vale of Glamorgan numbers were reduced by 65% this was offset by an increase in cremations from Bridgend residents by 11% and Rhondda Cynon Taff residents by 4.6%. This should have resulted in a loss of income of £150k but the demand for burial plots in the new memorial extension area increased to 229 No. and reduced the loss of income to approximately £75k.

3.2 The location of the new Crematorium is convenient for families living in Barry or Penarth but residents of Wick, Cowbridge etc. appear to have retained affiliation with Coychurch Crematorium, as the distance is comparable. It was anticipated that Funeral Directors would gravitate towards the new Crematorium in an effort to reduce travelling times but this has not occurred.

3.4 Charges are significantly higher at the new Crematorium and this may have affected family choices and limited the impact on the cremation service.

#### 4. **Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

4.1 There are no effects.

#### 5. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

5.1 There is no impact on specific equality groups and disability duties.

#### 6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 The income from the Crematorium will continue to be monitored against the revenue budgets for 2013/14 which will be revised in Coychurch Crematorium's Business Plan.

#### 7. **Recommendation:**

7.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

**Chris Howell**  
**CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER**  
**November 2012**

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**Background Papers:**

Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit