

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER

COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 7TH JUNE 2013

CREMATOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Joint Committee for the design programme for replacement of the existing cremators and installation of mercury abatement equipment, and to prepare drawings and documents of the proposals to enable planning and tender processes to be undertaken.

2. Background

- 2.1 Existing cremators were installed in 1997 with a 15 year maintenance contract agreed with the manufacturer. Due to the moderate condition of the cremators, this contract has been extended on an annual basis at a cost of £15,000, until such time as the cremators are replaced.
- 2.2 In 2012/13, informal discussions were held with manufacturers to develop an understanding of the types of cremators available to the service and to discuss how the Crematorium could accommodate the installation of mercury abatement equipment.
- 2.3 The current crematory arrangements provide three cremators, one of which does not comply with the current Environment Protection Act 1990 and is only licensed for a maximum use of 100 hours, for emergency use only. These cremators will be replaced with two new cremators, one of which will accommodate over-sized coffins.
- 2.4 The existing crematory is restrictive in height and space and the new equipment will require a larger area. The building is a Grade 2* listed building and any construction will have to satisfy stringent planning conditions set out by CADW. As they are unlikely to agree to alteration of the roof or any visible impact on the building, an extension into the service yard adjacent to the crematory is the only viable option.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 A design team has been established and a preliminary meeting held at the Crematorium. To allow ease of installation, the design will include a removable roof glazing panel to facilitate access into the crematory and allow manufacturers to deliver prefabricated units and escalate the

installation process. The draft outline proposals are as indicated in the Plans attached to this report.

3.2 The current estimated cost for the project stands at £1.2 million, which includes £830k for the cremator plant and ancillary mechanical and electrical work and £370k for building modifications and associated fees and charges.

3.3 A programme has been agreed which includes the following:

- Preparation of detailed drawings 2013/14
- Planning submission/agreement of design with CADW 2013/14
- Tender and construction of extension 2014/15
- Tender & installation of cremators 2015/16

3.4 Professional fees will be distributed throughout the duration of the project and will commence with the Design Fees, Planning Application and Tender Documentation Preparation within 2013/14.

3.5 New industry guidelines permit a small delay to cremation until the following day. This, combined with the installation of new cremators will provide a modern, effective and efficient use of cremator equipment and resources. This 'holding over' procedure requires a cool storage facility which will be incorporated into proposed construction works. Operatives can then make use of this arrangement during the cremator replacement programme, to assist the installation period. The introduction of this practice will be fully explained to families and 'a statement of understanding' introduced into relevant application forms.

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

4.1 There is none.

5. **Equality Impact Assessment**

5.1 The Council's Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit has been utilised, which indicates that the Cremator Replacement Programme will have no impact on equality groups and disability duties.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 Design and planning costs will be included in the expenditure budget for 2013/14.

7. **Recommendation**

7.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the design programme for replacement of the existing cremators, and the preparation of project drawings and documents to enable tender submissions for the proposed crematory extension and installation of new cremators.

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30th May 2013

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Background Papers:

Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit