

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2013

MARGAM CREMATORIUM

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Committee of the implications on the Crematorium from the temporary closure of Margam Crematorium.

2. Background

- 2.1 In the morning of 12th July 2013, Margam Crematorium suffered a fire in the crematory which damaged the roof and created smoke damage throughout the buildings. Coychurch Crematorium and Swansea Crematorium immediately assisted Funeral Directors in re-arranging funerals for that day and have continued to provide a service for families from Neath Port Talbot.
- 2.2 Following the initial contact with Margam Crematorium, Funeral Directors now book funeral arrangements directly with Coychurch Crematorium and there has been no further communication with Margam Crematorium.

3. Current Situation/Proposal

- 3.1 It is unknown when Margam Crematorium will become fully operational again and Coychurch will continue with its assistance until further notice. This temporary measure has affected the demand for cremations but due to the seasonal variation in service provision, it will not affect booking times. If this situation were to continue into the busier winter period then alternative operational provisions may have to be considered.
- 3.2 Crematorium statistics and annual income projections will be affected by this additional usage and the comparison number of cremations for 2012 and 2013 are indicated below:

	2012	2013
July	134 (5 other)	143 (27 other)
August	114 (5 other)	144 (31 other)

3.3 The statistics record usage by the three contributing authorities and those from outside these counties as 'Others'. It will not be possible to distinguish between families from within Bridgend County boundary who would have otherwise utilised Margam Crematorium. However, there is an increase of 9 cremations in July and 30 cremations in August. These figures are only an indication and do not take into account any unusual peaks, which is believed to have occurred in July 2012.

4. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

4.1 There is none.

5. Equalities Impact Assessment

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

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The projected increase in income from additional cremations is yet to be determined.

7. Recommendation:

7.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to note the impact of the closure of Margam Crematorium.

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CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
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Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit