

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2017

CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN AND CREMATION FEES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Business Plan and expenditure programme for 2017/18, which includes proposed increases in cremation fees.

2. Background

- 2.1 A Business Plan is presented annually to the Joint Committee for approval which includes service objectives and proposed maintenance, and improvement projects to enhance and maintain the Crematorium grounds and buildings for the forthcoming period.

3. Current Situation/Proposal

- 3.1 The total number of cremations for 2016 was 1589, made up of 950 from Bridgend, 190 from Vale of Glamorgan and 366 from Rhondda Cynon Taff, with 83 non-residents. An agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital for the cremation of non-viable foetal remains (NVF) has resulted in an additional 6 communal cremations. A further 9 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2015 and 2016 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.
- 3.2 The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2017/18 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.
- 3.3 The current cremation charge places the Crematorium at 230 out of 278 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2016 (where the highest cost is detailed first). The funding strategy included in previous Business Plans recommended an increase to the cremation charge by inflation plus £25 each year. This was for a temporary period to ensure that sufficient funding was available to support the future programme of improvements works but still retain the Crematorium's competitive position. The cremation charge increase did not include this £25 fee for 2016/17. The fees have been reviewed and it is not considered necessary to increase the cremation fee by an additional £25 this year but the need to do this will

continue to be reviewed on an annual basis. It is recommended that the cremation charge is increased by inflation from £623.00 to £636.70. This is based on a general increase in fees of 2.2% (1% plus CPI at 1.2% in line with the most recent CPI figure published in November 2016). The table below indicates comparison on current cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2016/17
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	£735.00+ (excl. organist)
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£655.00 (excl. organist)
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£655.00 (excl. organist)
Llanelli	£655.00
Gwent	£651.00 (excl. organist)
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£623.00
Swansea	£610.00 (excl. organist)
Margam	£585.00
Narberth	£564.00
Cardiff	£530.00 (excl. organist)

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

4.1 There is no effect.

5. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

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

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 All variations to expenditure and income, as outlined in the Service Level Business Plan, have been incorporated into the Treasurer's Report.

7. **Recommendation:**

7.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- Approve the Service Level Business Plan 2017/18
- Confirm the cremation fee for 2017/18 at £636.70

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CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
March 2017

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Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit