

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

2 MARCH 2018

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 2018/19, which includes proposed increases in cremation fees.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

2.1 This report is prepared and takes into consideration the following Corporate Improvement Objectives as outlined in the Councils Corporate Plan: -

- Priority one – Supporting a successful economy
- Priority two – Helping people to be more self-reliant
- Priority three – Smarter use of resources

3. Background

3.1 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.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The total number of cremations for 2017 was 1620, made up of 995 from Bridgend, 180 from Vale of Glamorgan and 379 from Rhondda Cynon Taff, with 66 non-residents. An agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital for the cremation of non-viable foetal remains (NVF) has resulted in an additional 8 communal cremations. A further 11 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2016 and 2017 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.

4.2 The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2018/19 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.

4.3 The Crematorium's cremation charge was placed at 241 out of 284 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2017 by the Cremation Society of Great Britain (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 has not included this £25 fee since 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 £636.70 to £662.20. This is based on a general increase in fees of 4% (1% plus CPI at 3% in line with the most recent CPI figure published in December 2017). The table below indicates comparison on **current** cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2017/18
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	£750.00+ (excl. £40 organist)
Llanelli	£745.00
Croesyceiliog (Gwent)	£671.00 (excl. organist)
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£670.00 (excl. organist)
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£670.00 (excl. organist)
Morrison (Swansea)	£650.00 (excl. £28 organist)
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£636.70
Margam	£585.00
Narberth	£581.00
Thornhill (Cardiff)	£540.00 (excl. organist)

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

5.1 There is no effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. **Financial Implications**

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

8. **Recommendation:**

8.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- Approve the Service Level Business Plan 2018/19
- Approve the cremation fee for 2018/19 at £662.20

Zak Shell

CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER

8th February 2018

Contact Officer:

Joanna Hamilton, Bereavement Services Manager & Registrar, Telephone No. 01656 656605

E-mail: joanna.hamilton@bridgend.gov.uk

Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit