

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

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2019

CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN AND FEES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Business Plan and expenditure programme for 2019/20, which includes proposed increases in cremation fees.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:-

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

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 2018 was 1614, made up of 988 from Bridgend, 145 from Vale of Glamorgan and 415 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 12 communal cremations. A further 9 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families.

Statistical records for the period from January to December 2017 and 2018 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.

4.2. The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2019/20 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.

4.3. The Crematorium's cremation charge was placed at 258 out of 291 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2018 by the Cremation Society of Great Britain (where the highest cost is detailed first). It is recommended that the cremation charge is increased by inflation from £662.20 to £680.70. This is based on a general increase in fees of 2.8% (1% plus CPI at 1.8% in line with the most recent CPI figure published in February 2019). The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2018/19) cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2018/19
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	£850.00+ (excl.£47 organist)
Llanelli	£785.00
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£690.00 (excl. organist)
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£690.00 (excl. organist)
Croesyceiliog (Gwent)	£684.00 (excl. organist)
Morrison (Swansea)	£665.00 (excl. organist)
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£662.20
Margam	£605.00
Narberth	£581.00
Thornhill (Cardiff)	£560.00 (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 **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

7.1 This report seeks approval of the Business Plan and expenditure programme for 2019/20. There is no requirement for a well-being statement.

8. **Financial Implications**

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

9. **Recommendation:**

9.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- Approve the Service Level Business Plan 2019/20.
- Approve the cremation fee for 2019/20 at £680.70 and a general increase in all fees of 2.8%.

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CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
12th February 2019

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Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit