

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

4 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER

CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN AND FEES

1. **Purpose of report**
 - 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Crematorium Business Plan and expenditure programme for 2022-23, which includes proposed fees and charges.
2. **Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities**
 - 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**
 1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great 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 borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.
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 2021 was 1,887, made up of 1,163 from Bridgend, 151 from Vale of Glamorgan and 508 from Rhondda Cynon Taff, with 65 non-residents. An agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital for the cremation of non-viable foetal remains (NVF) has resulted in an additional 7 communal cremations. A further 14 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2020 and 2021 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.
- 4.2. The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2022-23 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.
- 4.3. The Crematorium's cremation charge was placed at 281 out of 312 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2021 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 £707.50 to £745.70. This is based on a general increase in fees of 5.4% (CPI at 5.4% in line with the most recent Consumer Price Index figure published in December 2021). The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2021-22) cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2021-22
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	£930.00+ (excl.£55 organist)
Langstone Vale (Newport)	£875.00 (excl. organist)
Llanelli	£835.00
Croesyceiliog (Gwent)	£828.00 (excl. organist)
Sirhowy Valley (Pontllanfraith)	£790.00 (excl. organist)
Morrison (Swansea)	£765.00 (excl.£28 organist)
Thornhill (Cardiff)	£740.00 (excl. organist)
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£721.00 (excl. organist)
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£721.00 (excl. organist)
Narberth	£710.50
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£707.50
Margam	£630.50 (excl. organist)

- 4.4 The upgrade of the music and media systems in both chapels has allowed the Crematorium to offer additional audio-visual options. These are itemised below with recommended charges which are based upon recommendations from the suppliers and with a view to being locally competitive. The proposed charges will pay for production costs and contribute toward the maintenance of the equipment:

Audio Visual Option	Charge 2022-23
Live Webcast of funeral service - (includes 7 days on demand)	£77.90
Personal Digital Recording of the Webcast – Downloadable File link	£30.00

Personal Digital Recording of the Webcast with visual tributes inserted	£50.00
Personal Digital Video Recording of funeral service (funeral has not been Webcast) - Downloadable File Link (including a Visual Tribute if required)	£71.50
Visual Tributes – display of digital images during funeral service Display of Digital Single Still photograph - (Hold image)	£20.00
Display of Digital photographs Slideshow - max. 25 images with music if required	£75.00
For every additional 25 photographs	£25.00
Display of Digital Family Video File	£50.00
Personal Digital Copy of Visual Tribute only – Downloadable File link	£30.00

The new charges would replace the current audio-visual charges in place:

- Audio recording of a funeral service £58.50
- Video recording of a funeral service £71.50
- Webcast of funeral service £77.90

- 4.5. In recent years there has been an increasing demand for ‘direct cremation’. Some families do not require a funeral service at the crematorium. Most crematoria are now applying a reduced cremation charge for providing a cremation only that does not include a funeral service and mourner attendance, allowing the coffin to be transported to the crematorium at the start of the working day. The introduction of a low-cost direct cremation fee at Coychurch Crematorium would provide more choice and it is recommended that a fee of £550.00 should be introduced for 2022-23, inclusive of a cremation certificate. The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2021-22) direct cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Direct Cremation Fee 2021-22 (No Service, No attendance)
Morrison (Swansea)	£655.00
Narberth	£581.50
Margam	£530.50
Llanelli	£500.00
Thornhill (Cardiff)	£500.00
Langstone Vale (Newport)	£450.00
Croesyceiliog (Gwent)	£450.00
Sirhowy Valley (Pontllanfraith)	£450.00
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	-
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	Unavailable, standard fee of £721.00 charged
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	Unavailable, standard fee of £721.00 charged

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act have been considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 All variations to expenditure and income, as outlined in the Service Level Business Plan 2022-23, have been incorporated into the Treasurer's Report and the Revenue Budget for 2022-23.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the Service Level Business Plan 2022-23.

9.2 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the cremation fee for 2022-23 at £745.70 and a general increase in all fees of 5.4%.

9.3 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the additional audio-visual fees for 2022-23 as set out in 4.4.

9.4 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the direct cremation fee for 2022-23 at £550.00.

**ZAK SHELL
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
4 MARCH 2022**

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Background Papers:

Business Plan Report to the Joint Committee 8th March 2019,
Business Plan Report to the Joint Committee 6th March 2020,
Business Plan Report to the Joint Committee 5th March 2021.