

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

3 MARCH 2023

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 Fees report for 2023-24.

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. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure 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 to 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 the 2022 calendar year was 1,571, made up of 970 from Bridgend, 402 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 135 from the Vale of Glamorgan, with 64 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 5 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2021 and 2022 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.
- 4.2. The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2023-24 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.

- 4.3. The Crematorium's cremation charge was placed at 287 out of 314 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2022 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 £745.70 to £824.00. This is based on a general increase in fees of 10.5% (CPI at 10.5% in line with the most recent Consumer Price Index figure published in December 2022). The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2022-23) cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

| Crematorium | Cremation Fee 2022-23 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vale of Glamorgan (Barry) | £980.00+ (excl.£55 organist) |
| Langstone Vale (Newport) | £950.00 (excl. organist) |
| Llanelli | £950.00 (excl. organist) |
| Sirhowy Valley (Pontllanfraith) | £950.00 (excl. organist) |
| Croesyceiliog (Gwent) | £828.00 (excl. organist) |
| Thornhill (Cardiff) | £780.00 (excl. organist) |
| Morrison (Swansea) | £765.00 (excl.£28 organist) |
| Narberth | £749.00 (excl. organist) |
| Coychurch (Bridgend) | £745.70 |
| Glyntaff (Pontypridd) | £739.00 (excl. organist) |
| Llwydcoed (Aberdare) | £739.00 (excl. organist) |
| Margam | £630.50 (excl. organist) |

- 4.4 The introduction of the unattended 'direct cremation' fee for 2022-23 has been well received by those families who do not require a funeral service at the crematorium. It has raised a discrepancy, however, with the fee charged for a memorial service (chapel hire where no cremation service is provided). The crematorium currently charges £82.10 for hiring the crematorium chapel for a thirty-minute memorial service. This fee is doubled for Saturday services. This fee is substantially below that charged at other crematoria. The difference between Coychurch Crematorium's current weekday attended cremation charge of £745.70 and the unattended direct cremation charge of £550.00 is £195.70. Consequently, it is recommended that the weekday charge for hiring the crematorium chapel for a thirty-minute memorial service should be increased to £220.00 for 2023-24, which would double for Saturdays, and bring it into line with neighbouring crematoria. The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2022-23) fees charged by adjoining crematoria for the hire of the chapel for a memorial service:

| Crematorium | Chapel Hire Fee 2022-23 (No cremation) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Llanelli | £475.00 |
| Langstone Vale (Newport) | £475.00 |
| Sirhowy Valley (Pontllanfraith) | £475.00 |
| Vale of Glamorgan (Barry) | £385.00 |
| Morrison (Swansea) | £370.00 |
| Thornhill (Cardiff) | £300.00 |
| Margam | £175.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Glyntaff (Pontypridd) | £126.00 |
| Llwydcoed (Aberdare) | £126.00 |
| Coychurch (Bridgend) | £82.10 |

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 2023-24, have been incorporated into the Treasurer's Report and the Revenue Budget for 2023-24, and will be presented to the Joint Committee in a separate report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the Service Level Business Plan 2023-24.

9.2 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the cremation fee for 2023-24 at £824.00 and a general increase in all fees of 10.5%.

9.3 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve the fee for hiring the crematorium chapel for a thirty-minute memorial service at £220.00 for 2023-24, which would double on Saturdays.

**ZAK SHELL
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
3 MARCH 2023**

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Background Papers: None