

Meeting of:	COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	6 MARCH 2026
Report Title:	CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN AND FEES
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
Responsible Officer:	JOANNA HAMILTON BEREAVEMENT SERVICES MANAGER & REGISTRAR
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report provides the Joint Committee with the details of a Service Level Business Plan and the proposed fees and charges for 2026-27. • Appendix 1 provides the Service Level Business Plan.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Crematorium Service Level Business Plan and Fees report for 2026-27.

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 the 2025 calendar year was 1,458, made up of 892 from Bridgend, 396 from Rhondda Cynon Taff and 118 from the Vale of Glamorgan, with 52 non-residents (outside of the three constituent authorities of the Crematorium Joint Committee). 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 12 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2025 and 2024 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.

- 3.2 The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2026-27 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period.
- 3.3 The Crematorium's cremation charge was placed at 310 out of 334 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2025 by the Cremation Society of Great Britain (where the highest cost is detailed first).
- 3.4 The table below indicates comparison on **current** (2025-26) cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2025-26
Langstone Vale (Newport)	£1260.00
Sirhowy Valley (Pontllanfraith)	£1260.00
Llanelli	£1185.00
Vale of Glamorgan (Barry)	£1080.00+
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£1050.00
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£1050.00
Croesyceiliog (Gwent)	£930.00
Thornhill (Cardiff)	£910.00
Narberth	£903.00
Morrison (Swansea)	£895.00
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£845.40
Margam	£674.00

- 3.5 Fees and charges are set in accordance with the requirements outlined in Bridgend County Borough Council's Fees and Charges Policy. In general, the aim is for full cost recovery, with fees and charges increased by inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) (in line with the most recent CPI figure published in November 2025, which is 3.2%), or in accordance with statutory or service requirements, except where a clear decision is taken not to do so.
- 3.6 Coychurch Crematorium achieves full cost recovery each year, plus additional income which is transferred to its reserve funds.
- 3.7 The fees and charges relating to cremation fees and ancillary services charges were not increased in 2024-25. This assisted to balance out the 10.5% increase in fees and charges in 2023-24 and prevent the gap in fees with Margam Crematorium widening further. The fees and charges for 2025-26 were increased by 2.6% in line with the CPI figure published in November 2024.
- 3.8 It is recommended that the cremation charges and fees for 2026-27 are increased by inflation from £845.40 to £872.45. This is in line with the Fees and Charges Policy as it is in line with the most recent CPI figure published in November 2025.

- 4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**
 - 4.1 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.
- 5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**
 - 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. The well-being goals identified in the Act were 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.
- 6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**
 - 6.1 There are no climate change and nature implications arising from this report.
- 7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**
 - 7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.
- 8. Financial Implications**
 - 8.1 These are reflected in the report. All variations to expenditure and income, as outlined in the Service Level Business Plan 2026-27, have been incorporated into the Treasurer's Report and the Revenue Budget for 2026-27, 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 2026-27 (**Appendix 1**).
 - 9.2 The Joint Committee is recommended to approve an increase in all fees of 3.2% for 2026-27.

Background documents: None