

Meeting of:	COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	06 MARCH 2026
Report Title:	FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2025-26 AND PROPOSED REVENUE BUDGET 2026-27
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	TREASURER TO THE COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
Responsible Officer:	DEAN JONES ACCOUNTANT - FINANCIAL CONTROL AND CLOSING
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report outlines the projected Financial Performance for 2025-26 and the proposed revenue budget for 2026-27 for the Joint Committee. • The Financial Performance report shows current income and expenditure levels, and a projected budget surplus of £345,258 for 2025-26. • The proposed budget for 2026-27 is included for approval with a proposal for fees to be increased by 3.2% in line with the Council's Fees and Charges policy as shown in Appendix 1. • The Annual Accounting Statement for 2024-25 has been returned and audited by Audit Wales with no amendments and is included as Appendix 2.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Joint Committee of the projected financial performance for the Crematorium for 2025-26, and to obtain approval from the Joint Committee for the Proposed Budget and the Fees and Charges for 2026-27 as set out in **Appendix 1**.

2. Background

- 2.1 The 2025-26 Revenue Budget was approved by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 7 March 2025. The current budget position and projected outturn for 2025-26 is shown in paragraph 3.1. The proposed budget for 2026-27 is set out in paragraph 3.3.
- 2.2 The Annual Return for 2024-25 was submitted to Audit Wales at the end of July 2025 which outlines a surplus of £615,097 for the year and an accumulated balance of £2,698,920 as at 31 March 2025.

Audit Wales has now confirmed that the Return has been audited with no amendments required. The Annual Return for 2024-25, signed by Audit Wales, is attached at **Appendix 2**.

3. Current situation/ proposal

Projected Revenue Outturn 2025-26

- 3.1 Table 1 below shows the financial position as at 31 January 2026 and the projected outturn for 2025-26.

Table 1- Comparison of Budget against Projected Spend as at 31 January 2026

Budget	Category	*Adjusted Actual	Projected Outturn	Projected Over (Under) Spend
2025-26		01/04/25 to 31/01/26	2025-26	2025-26
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
418	Employees	320	387	(31)
539	Premises	267	548	9
256	Supplies, Services & Transport	249	306	50
113	Agency / Contractors	100	113	0
37	Administration	31	37	0
30	Capital Financing Costs	22	36	6
1,393	Gross Expenditure	989	1,427	34
(1,636)	Fees & Charges	(1,110)	(1,636)	0
(37)	BCBC Contribution	(31)	(37)	0
(100)	Investment income	(83)	(100)	0
(1,773)	Gross Income	(1,224)	(1,773)	0
(380)	(Surplus)/Deficit	(235)	(346)	34
380	Transfer to/(from) Reserve	235	346	

*Adjusted to include pro-rata commitments during the year.

3.2 When the budget was set there was an anticipated budget surplus of £380,000. The projected outturn as at the end of January is a surplus of £346,000 which will be transferred to the Crematorium's Accumulated Surplus.

An explanation of the variances between the budget and projected outturn is detailed below:

- The projected underspend of £31,000 on Employees is due to vacant posts.
- The projected overspend of £9,000 on Premises relates to an overspend on maintenance of grounds due to emergency tree works.
- The projected overspend of £50,000 on Supplies, Services & Transport is made up of an overspend on items for resale (£50,000) due to a rise in requests for visual tributes and kerb block plaques. There is a further small projected overspend against Liability insurance of £1,000 estimated in line with last year's spend, which is offset by an underspend on exam fees and expenses (£1,000).
- Table 2 below shows a breakdown of the Planned Capital Maintenance budget along with the projected outturn and variances for 2025-26.

Table 2 – Planned Capital Maintenance 2025-26

	Budget 2025-26 £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Groundworks - Paths	30	36	6
Total	30	36	6

- The overspend on Groundworks - Paths is due to additional improvement works on site.

2026-27 Proposed Budget

3.3 Table 3 below shows the proposed revenue budget for 2026-27.

Table 3 – Proposed Budget 2026-27

Category	Budget 2026-27 £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Employees	434
Premises	526
Supplies, Services & Transport	307
Agency / Contractors	113
Administration	30
Capital Financing Costs	60
Gross Expenditure	1,470
<u>Income</u>	
Fees & Charges	(1,646)
Contribution from BCBC	(38)
Investment Income	(100)
Gross Income	(1,784)
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	(314)
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	314

3.4 All 2025-26 non-employee budgets have been reviewed and any necessary adjustments made to meet anticipated expenditure for 2026-27.

3.5 Employee budgets have been adjusted to reflect salary increments, the change in Pension contributions and an allowance made for a pay award in 2026-27.

3.6 The Business Plan for 2026-27 includes a budget requirement of £60,000 to meet Planned Capital Maintenance expenditure itemised in the table below:

Table 4 – Planned Capital Maintenance Spending Requirements

2026-27	£'000
Groundworks - Paths	60
Total	60

These costs will be met from the Capital Financing Costs budget identified in Table 3 above.

Fees and Charges

- 3.7 Fees and charges are reviewed in line with Bridgend County Borough Council's Fees and Charges Policy and increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at November prior to the start of the financial year. CPI for November 2025 was 3.2%, and fees have been increased to reflect this.
- 3.8 Income budgets have been prepared based on normal levels of activity. The 2026-27 proposed fees table is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Accumulated Balance

- 3.9 The effect on the accumulated balance of the proposed budget for 2026-27 is shown in Table 5 below:

Table 5 – Impact on Accumulated Balance of Proposed Budget 2026-27

Accumulated Balance	£000
Balance as at 31 March 2025	(2,699)
Projected Transfer to Reserves 2025-26	(346)
Projected Balance as at 31 March 2026	(3,045)
Projected Transfer to Reserves 2026-27	(314)
Projected Balance as at 31 March 2027	(3,359)

- 3.10 It is projected that, as at 31 March 2027, there will be an accumulated balance of £3.359 million. The balance of reserves as at 31 March 2026 is considered a sufficient level to maintain and protect the service in light of any unknown demands or emergencies.

Capital Expenditure 2026-27

- 3.11 Capital expenditure will not require any loan charge or contribution from constituent authorities in 2026-27. Items of a capital nature for 2026-27 as set out in paragraph 3.6, Table 4, will be directly funded from revenue contributions and the accumulated surplus from previous years.

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. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. 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 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- **Long-term:** the consideration and approval of this report will assist in the short-term planning for the long-term operation of the crematorium.
- **Prevention:** the consideration and approval of this report will assist in the planning of expenditure and funding to support future service delivery for the benefit of communities.
- **Integration:** the report supports all the well-being objectives.
- **Collaboration:** savings are achieved as a result of collaboration and integrated working of the Joint Committee.
- **Involvement:** publication of the report ensures that members and stakeholders can review the Financial Performance 2025-26 and proposed revenue budget for 2026-27.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no climate change 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 within the report.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to

(a) Note the projected financial performance for 2025-26.

(b) Confirm and approve the revenue budget for 2026-27.

(c) Approve 3.2% increase in fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2026 as outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Background documents: None