

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

6 MARCH 2015

CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN AND CREMATION FEES

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to approve the Business Plan and expenditure programme for 2015/16, which includes proposed increases in cremation fees.

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 2014 was 1651, made up of 965 from Bridgend, 194 from Vale of Glamorgan and 342 from Rhondda Cynon Taff, with 150 non-residents. An agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital for the cremation of non-viable foetal remains (NVF) has resulted in an additional 10 communal cremations. A further 7 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2012, 2013 and 2014 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.
- 3.2 The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2015/16 is attached as **Appendix 1** which outlines the service objectives for the period. The replacement of the cremators was delayed until 2015/16 to allow the accumulation of operational surpluses necessary to cover the cost of this project and this has been achieved.
- 3.3 The current cremation charge places the Crematorium at 221 out of 271 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2014. In accordance with the funding strategy included in previous Business Plans, it is recommended that the cremation charge is increased from £580.00 (by inflation + £25) to £615.00. This will ensure that sufficient funding is available to support the future programme of improvements works but still retain the Crematorium's

competitive position. The table below indicates comparison on current cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2014/15
Vale of Glamorgan	£690.00
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£590.00
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£590.00
Margam	£585.00
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£580.00
Swansea	£576.00
Llanelli	£576.00
Narberth	£561.00
Gwent	£538.00
Cardiff (excl. organist)	£490.00+

4. **Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

4.1 There is no effect.

5. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

5.1 There is no impact on specific equality groups and disability duties.

6. **Financial Implications**

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

7. **Recommendation:**

7.1 The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Approve the Service Level Business Plan 2015, and
- (b) Confirm the cremation fee for 2015/16 at £615.00

Zac Shell
CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
February 2015

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Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit