

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT OF THE CLERK & TECHNICAL OFFICER
COYCHURCH CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2016

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 2016/17, 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 2015 was 1581, made up of 933 from Bridgend, 199 from Vale of Glamorgan and 375 from Rhondda Cynon Taff, with 74 non-residents. An agreement with the Princess of Wales Hospital for the cremation of non-viable fetal remains (NVF) has resulted in an additional 11 communal cremations. A further 9 individual NVF cremations were arranged directly with families. Statistical records for the period from January to December 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 are included in the Business Plan for comparison.
- 3.2 The proposed Service Level Business Plan for 2016/17 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 the project and this was achieved.
- 3.3 The current cremation charge places the Crematorium at 212 out of 277 cremation authorities in a national fee league table published in summer 2015. The funding strategy included in previous Business Plans recommended an increase to the cremation charge by inflation plus £25 each year. This was for a temporary period to ensure that sufficient funding was available to support the future programme of

improvements works, the Crematorium extension and the replacement of Crematorium equipment, but still retain the Crematorium's competitive position. The extension of the Crematorium and associated installation of new equipment has been completed and the fees accordingly reviewed. It is not considered necessary to increase the cremation fee by an additional £25 this year but instead the need will be reviewed on an annual basis. It is recommended that the cremation charge is increased by inflation from £615.00 to £623.00. The table below indicates comparison on current cremation fees for adjoining crematoria:

Crematorium	Cremation Fee 2015/16
Vale of Glamorgan	£665.00+ (excl. organist)
Glyntaff (Pontypridd)	£626.00 (excl. organist)
Llwydcoed (Aberdare)	£626.00 (excl. organist)
Coychurch (Bridgend)	£615.00
Llanelli	£605.00
Gwent	£592.00 (excl. organist)
Margam	£585.00
Swansea	£580.00 (excl. organist)
Narberth	£564.00
Cardiff	£515.00 (excl. organist)

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:

- Approve the Service Level Business Plan 2016/17
- Confirm the cremation fee for 2016/17 at £623.00

Zac Shell
CLERK AND TECHNICAL OFFICER
22nd February 2016

Contact Officer:

Joanna Hamilton, Crematorium Manager & Registrar, Telephone No. 01656 656605

E-mail: joanna.hamilton@bridgend.gov.uk

Background Papers: Equalities Impact Assessment Toolkit

