



## PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

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**Date of Meeting:** 11th March 2013

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**Public**

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**Key Decision:** No

**Recorded in Forward Plan:** No

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**Outside Policy Framework**

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**Title:** CREMATOR WORKS  
**Report of:** The Director of Local Environment  
**Report reference:** LE06/13

### **Summary:**

The report identifies the need for replacement of specialist brick linings in one of 2 cremators at Carlisle Crematorium and seeks Executive approval to release the necessary funding to allow a contract to be let for the work.

### **Recommendations:**

The Executive agrees the release of funds from the Cremator Reserve to enable the replacement of the brick lining of cremator FT3 at Carlisle Crematorium.

**Contact Officer:** Angela Culleton

**Ext:** 7325

**Note:** in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

The two cremators at Carlisle Crematorium were last upgraded in 2007, including the fitting of mercury abatement technology. At the time the specialist contractor, Facultative Technologies, advised that the special, heat-resistant brick linings would need replacing after approximately 5 years. That time has now elapsed for the FT3 cremator. An engineer's report based on a detailed survey of the cremators in January 2013 has confirmed the need to replace the linings.

The work will be put out to competitive tender and is likely to cost in the range £25,000 - £35,000. The work will be programmed for summer 2013 (the season of least demand on the crematorium) and will require the cremator to be off-line for a maximum of 5 working days.

The budget for cremator repairs and replacement is held in a reserve fund, set up following the replacement of the cremators in 2007.

### **CAMEO Scheme**

Under the Mercury Abatement Regulations, it is now mandatory that 50% of all cremations carried out in England & Wales are abated (in other words, mercury from dental fillings which would otherwise escape into the environment is extracted from the flue gases and recycled). In Carlisle, thanks to the installation of mercury abatement technology in 2007, 100% of cremations are abated. The City Council can therefore trade up to 50% of our cremations and a not-for-profit company, CAMEO, has been established to administer the trades on a nationwide basis. Once registered (costs £200 for 2013) the Council will receive a payment for each non-abated cremation traded. Last year there were 1,427 cremations in total so we could offer 712 (50%) of these for trading. The projected income, which we will receive as a cash payment, would be a maximum of £33,500 depending on the number of cremations traded and the agreed fee per cremation.

All income from the CAMEO scheme will also be paid into the cremator reserve fund.

### **Options**

1. Approve the funding and procure the replacement of brick linings in order to allow the crematorium to continue to operate as normal, using income from the CAMEO scheme to top up the cremator reserve fund.

2. Do nothing, resulting in FT3 becoming unserviceable and therefore reducing by 50% the crematorium's capacity and restricting the end-of-life choices available to bereaved families in the Carlisle area.

## **2. CONSULTATION**

### **2.1 Consultation to Date.**

Report from specialist contractor having conducted regular maintenance check on the condition of the cremators.

### **2.2 Consultation proposed.**

Funeral Directors will be given advance notice of the closedown while the work is carried out.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive agrees the release of funds from the Cremator Reserve to enable the replacement of the brick lining of cremator FT3 at Carlisle Crematorium.

## **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cremator FT3 has reached the end of the predicted life of the specialist, firebrick lining and a technician's report has identified the urgent need to replace these linings. The Cremator Reserve fund is available for this purpose. It will be topped up by income from the CAMEO scheme once it goes live later in 2013.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

- Staffing/Resources – No impact
- Financial – The Cremator Reserve stands at £69,400 (31 March 2012) and the use of this reserve, as outlined in the report, is in line with Council policy. Management of the reserve rests with the Director of Local Environment; release of funds requiring approval of the Executive. If approved the 2013/14 revenue budget will increase by up to £35,000 to fund the work, financed from the earmarked reserve.
- Legal – As stated within the Report, the contract should be let, subject to appropriate terms and conditions, following a procurement process in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules.
- Corporate – Repairing the cremator maintains Carlisle City Council's capacity for disposal of the dead by cremation.

- Risk Management – Protects the Council's reputation as a competent authority.
- Environmental – The replacement of the linings is essential to maintain the environmental efficiency of the cremators which will be rendered unserviceable if the work is not done.
- Crime and Disorder – No impact
- Impact on Customers – Bereaved families will be forced to travel outside Carlisle for cremation services if the Council's capacity to cremate is reduced.
- Equality and Diversity – Cremation is an increasingly popular choice for bereaved families and it would their options if the service was to be significantly impaired by the permanent closure of an unserviceable cremator.

## Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	No	
Disability	No	
Race	No	
Gender/ Transgender	No	
Sexual Orientation	No	
Religion or belief	No	
Human Rights	No	
Health inequalities	No	
Rurality	No	

**If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:**

Cremation is a popular end-of-life choice for many bereaved families and individuals and it is important that this option continues to be available in Carlisle at the appropriate ratio (1 cremator per 1,000 deaths per annum). In the case of the area served by Carlisle Crematorium the death rate is approximately 2,000 per annum meaning that 2 cremators are required in order to support the service. Not maintaining the cremators would have a significant negative impact; to carry out the work as per the recommendation above maintains the status quo and therefore has no impact on services, customers or the Council.

**If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.**