

DISTINGTON CREMATORIUM REPLACEMENT OF CREMATORS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr George Clements & Cllr Geoff Blackwell
LEAD OFFICER: Mr S Smith Interim Head of Regeneration
REPORT AUTHOR: Mr T Magean, Mr C Lloyd

Summary and Recommendation:

Executive is asked to:

- a). release £30,000 from funding already set aside to obtain specialist support services for feasibility studies into the replacement of cremators at the Crematorium.
- b). to delegate authority for selection of consultants for the ad hoc tender list and for acceptance of a tender.
- c). to confirm the Council will continue to participate in the CAMEO scheme until, and if, such time as the cremators are fitted with abatement equipment

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The current cremators in the Crematorium were installed around 1994. Specialists were appointed in 2005 to report on the condition of these cremators and advised that replacement would be required in 2009. At this time the estimated cost was in the region of £300,000
- 1.2. In 2006 Members were asked to support the provision of a sinking fund for three years at £100,000 per year in order to reduce the cost impact of the renewals.
- 1.3. Members have approved £100,000 in 2005/6 and £75,000 in 200/8, so the current fund now stands at £175,000.
- 1.4 Crematoria emit mercury and without action could contribute 25% of national mercury emissions by 2020. The Government announced in 2005 a requirement that emissions of mercury from 50% of crematoria should be abated by the end of 2012. At the request of the cremation sector, this requirement allows for the adoption of a 'burden sharing' approach, whereby cremation authorities can share the cost. The main burden sharing arrangement is a national scheme established by the Federation of Burial and

Cremation Authorities and known as CAMEO (Crematoria abatement of emissions organization). Currently the Council has adopted the CAMEO levy voluntarily and the charge is added to the cost of each cremation. Income from the levy is currently retained by the Council in a separate fund which, up to 2012, can be used to help offset the cost of any upgrade to abatement equipment. From 2012 it becomes part of the national CAMEO scheme which will redistribute the levy to those crematoria which have upgraded to the higher abatement standard as an additional income stream to those authorities. The Council's CAMEO fund, as at 31 March 2008, stands at £27,900.

1.4 Further regulation has recently been enacted by the Government -

- DEFRA has recently written to all Chief Executives of local authorities advising of the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales) Regulations 2007 which include The Environmental Protection (England) (Crematoria Mercury Emissions Directive 2008) which require decisions by authorities by October 2008 on whether or not abatement equipment will be fitted, and if so expected dates for fitting.
- The alternative that is likely to apply to Copeland is to continue with the cameo scheme (payment of a 'charge' for each cremation carried out where there is no abatement equipment fitted to comply with new regulation).

2 ARGUMENT

- 2.1 2009 is now relatively close, and it is now considered appropriate to commence the early stages of the project.
- 2.2 A project team has been established comprising Toni Magean, Stephen Benn, David Mullen and Chris Lloyd to draw together knowledge and experience on operation and management of the cremators, and to facilitate construction and procurement.
- 2.3 Crematoria are highly specialised items of equipment, and in order to proceed correctly it is considered essential to seek external support for this work.
- 2.4 This report seeks approval to engage a specialist consultant that has prior experience of upgrading works to cremator, and which can undertake feasibility studies to consider the options available to the Council to replace the cremators.
- 2.5 A range of factors need to be reviewed including, but not limited to:
 - Review condition of cremators, confirm extent of life remaining.
 - Review cameo tax implications, income, application to project, future requirements (optional now – may be mandatory in future – 2012).
 - Review options for installing abatement equipment in flues against cameo tax and size of crematorium implications.
 - Review partnership opportunities with adjacent operators for cremations, both during installation works and beyond.
 - Consider if replacement of the 2 cremators will be required in future – assess likely numbers of cremations (rising or falling) against efficiency improvements for new installation and partnership opportunities.
 - Review spatial implications of new plant – will it fit into crematorium, can it be inserted into existing building without difficulty
 - Consider timescales for installation disruption on cremations etc
 - Is any finance or grant available, can prudential borrowing provide a route?
 - Effect on present high maintenance cost.

- Effect on current working practices.
 - Ensure stakeholders are consulted (Undertakers, Church representatives, etc).
- 2.6 Consideration of these factors and others will enable options to be established which can then be priced out for further consideration of Executive in due course.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The project team therefore wishes to obtain the services of a specialist consultant to provide support and advice at this feasibility stage.
- 3.2 Funding is available from the monies already set aside, so it is requested that £30,000 be allocated from this for these services
- 3.3 A tender process in accordance with Contract Standing Orders would be implemented, seeking prices for full services but with appointment in stages with feasibility being the first phase, and any further services to be dependent on further Executive approvals.
- 3.4 In order to streamline the process Executive is asked to delegate selection of an ad hoc list of Tenderers and acceptance of a tender to the Heads of Regeneration, and Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the portfolio holder.
- 3.5 Executive is asked to confirm the Council will continue to participate in the CAMEO scheme until, and if, such time as the cremators are fitted with abatement equipment.

4 FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 4.1 Current staff resources will be used plus the services of a specialist external consultant.

5 PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Project management techniques will be employed.

6 IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

6.1 Supports maintenance of Council owned operations to efficient modern standards, providing the best possible service to customers.

List of Appendices

None

List of Background Documents: Project files.

List of Consultees: Corporate Team, Crematorium Manager, Property Support Officer.

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	No effect
Impact on Sustainability	Supports
Impact on Rural Proofing	No effect
Health and Safety Implications	Fully considered including CDM
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	No effect
Children and Young Persons Implications	No effect
Human Rights Act Implications	No effect
Monitoring Officer	
S151	Funding confirmed as approved and £30k released is within the limits available.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO