



Report to: **Mansfield and District Joint Crematorium Committee**

Date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (10.00 am)

Director Lead: Mansfield District Council, Sarah Troman, Head of Neighbourhood Services, 01623 463036

Lead Officer: Mansfield District Council, Nada Colclough, Crematorium and Cemeteries Manager and Registrar, 01623 463882

Report Summary	
Type of report	Open Report
Report Title	Operations Report
Purpose of Report	This report seeks to provide an update on staff and the current operation of the crematorium
Recommendations	1. That the committee note the report

## **1.0 Background**

The previous report was presented to the committee in September 2023. This report provides the committee with an update on progress since the last meeting.

## **2.0 Proposal/Options Considered and Reasons for Recommendation**

### **2.1 Staffing**

2.1.1 The staffing restructure is currently being finalised and the staff consultation is expected to start before the Christmas period. The restructure focuses on efficiency, cost saving and resilience. The restructure will also address the previous removal of weekend working, which has caused an increase in complaints from families unable to access the Book of Remembrance.

### **2.2 Cremator and Ancillary Equipment**

2.2.1 Cremator 2 has experienced a breakdown and is currently not operating. Repair works are scheduled for January 2024. Reduced capacity is expected until the repair is completed.

2.2.2 A breakdown on cremator three was repaired in the same day but highlighted the need to consider a full re wire of each of the cremators

- 2.2.3 Our current maintenance supplier has been tasked with providing a quote for us to replace the control panels and carry out a full re wire. This was trying to be avoided but in light of the awaited decision regarding the new build crematorium, the work is needed in order to ensure full capacity can be maintained until such time as the future requirements for the crematorium have been determined.
- 2.2.4 £198,000 is currently held in general reserves for the purposes of temporary cremators and this option is being revisited in order to be able to provide a comparison between installing temporary cremators and the required works on the existing cremators. Information regarding the financial options will be delivered during the February committee meeting.
- 2.2.5 Annual servicing is pre planned and scheduled for 2024, in order to carry out preventative maintenance where possible.

### **2.3 Metal recycling Scheme**

- 2.3.1 A donation of £14,000 has been made to John Eastwood Hospice, because of the metal recycling scheme. This is ADC’s nomination. A PR exercise is being carried out in order to support the Hospice with raising awareness of impact that donations have.

### **2.4 Christmas**

- 2.4.1 The Christmas memorial service is taking place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Last years’ service was a success with feedback from families being excellent. Donations from the event will be made to John Eastwood Hospice in line with the charity rotation. Families who attend on the day can send in photos of their loved ones, to be shown throughout the service, and catering is being supplied and donated by a local café. A list of all donors and acts for the event will be published in a press release following the service. The event is a designed to bring families together but also include donations of time from the wider bereavement service team, including celebrants and Funeral Directors, who donate their time to take part in the service.
- 2.4.2 Operations will continue as normal between Christmas and New Year, in order to support the throughput from the local hospitals.

### **2.5 Cremation Data**

- 2.5.1 Cremation numbers decreased during the last quarter. This is being attributed to lower death rates during this period. The last published death rates data suggest a 9% decrease nationally in death rates in the first month of quarter two. While there has not been a significant rise in cremation numbers, in comparison to this time last year, numbers are expected to increase at the end of December and into the new year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>Q1</b>	565	745	533	576	561
<b>Q2</b>	505	511	558	595	476
<b>Q3</b>	579	640	607	512	
<b>Q4</b>	660	838	601	691	
<b>Total</b>	2309	2734	2299	2374	

### **Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human

Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

N/A