



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

Date: Monday 24th February 2025 (10.00 am)

Director Lead: Mansfield District Council, Ady Selby, Assistant Director 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 the current operation of the crematorium
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the committee note the report2. That the committee approve the spend of £12,895 to be used from reserves, for the repair and maintenance work to be carried out on the crematorium.3. That the committee approve the donation of £3000 to the Children's Bereavement Centre to fund 15 Counselling sessions for Children across in Mansfield, Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood.

1.0 Background

The previous report was presented to the committee in December 2024. 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 Cremator and Ancillary Equipment

2.1.1 While there have been no breakdowns, number four cremator has a fault that is currently being investigated. This cremator is the bariatric cremator, and any downtime will impact the operation significantly.

2.2 Building Maintenance and Repair

2.2.1 Information provided to the committee at the meeting in December 2024 detailed several concerns with the building that need addressing. It is recommended that the committee approve the following works and associated costs of £12,895. This is in addition to £30,000 already approved in December 2021, making the total spend

required £42,895. This spend will not address any cremator works or internal decoration of the building.

- 2.2.1.1 Water Supply - The crematorium requires a new water supply from Derby Road to the main building, this is now becoming urgent as the water pressure and quality of water is becoming worse. Spend of £30,000 was approved by the committee in December 2021 however this project was put on hold in light of an awaited decision regarding the development of the crematorium. A water quality test was carried out and although this identified that there were no issues with the water quality, the concern is that the water pressure will continue to reduce, and this will affect the public toilets with handwashing and flushing. A review of the required spend has been carried out and the previously approved budget of £30,000 now needs to be increased to £36,000 to accommodate internal pipework that needs attention, in addition to the new water supply. An additional £6,000 spend therefore requires approval.
- 2.2.1.2 Internal Electrics – Ongoing concerns with the electrics determine that the site requires rewiring, however given these extensive costs an upgrade to the distribution panel would be advisable. It is recommended that this work be completed out and that the committee approves spend of £6895.00 to carry out this work
- 2.2.1.3 Cremators – the most challenging works would be required on the cremators. In the absence of being able to replace the cremators, and the extensive associated works, a quote was compiled in February 2024 for the complete upgrade of all three cremators this included upgraded electrical systems and software, new CEMS units, Combustion oxygen control, and chimney inspection hatches. Due to the quote 12 months old 20% would need to be added as a contingency to accommodate inflation and materials increases. This would then make the required spend circa £1.2m. Given the scale of the expenditure required, this would not be viable but given the required upgrading and replacement of the cremators, the risk of breakdown and failure of the equipment will remain until a decision can be taken on the development of the crematorium.

2.3 Children’s Funeral Fund Update

- 2.3.1 Funeral services for children under the age of 18 are free at the point of service, for bereaved parents. Crematorium and burial authority operators can claim back any costs associated with a child funeral service from the Government Child Funeral Fund. Reclaimed funds are in line with current fees and charges.
- 2.3.2 To improve bereavement service provision for the parents of deceased children and children who experience bereavement, in September 2023 the committee approved that any funds that are claimed back can be repurposed to improve the children’s bereavement services at the crematorium, on an ongoing basis, rather than these funds being utilised as income.
- 2.3.3 In December 2024 committee meeting the committee were presented with a plan to donate funds to the Children’s Bereavement Centre, a charity that supports bereaved children across Mansfield, Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood. Officers met with the charity who are predominantly based in Newark however they are providing much needed support in Mansfield and Ashfield also. Importantly the meeting identified that there is a need within Mansfield, Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood for counselling

sessions for bereaved children and they can have the biggest positive impact for children and families.

2.3.4 It costs £200 to fund a course of 8 sessions for a child accessing bereavement counselling and it is proposed that the committee approve a donation of £3000 to the charity to fund 5 counselling sessions in each authority area. This will ensure that children from Mansfield, Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood will benefit from the donation.

2.3.5 Comms teams from each of the authority will support with much needed promotion for the charity.

2.4 Cremation Data

2.4.1 Cremation numbers are 7.3% lower than at the end of Q3 in 23/24 financial year.

Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/25
Q1	565	745	533	576	561	469
Q2	505	511	558	595	476	469
Q3	579	640	607	512	521	506
Q4	660	838	601	691	586	
Total	2309	2734	2299	2374	2144	1444

2.4.2ell The below table shows the local cremation trends and the impact that the facilities in Mansfield continue to have on market share.

Crematoria	Cremation Numbers				Trend 2020 -		Capacity	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023		Chapels	Cremators
Bassetlaw (Babworth)	821	823	1402	1976	▲	+118.76%	1	1
Bramcote	2703	2580	2462	2318	▼	-14.24%	2	3
Gedling	1648	1613	1949	2431	▲	+47.51%	1	2
Mansfield	2523	2493	2240	2211	▼	-12.37%	2	3
Nottingham	1913	1705	1636	1440	▼	-24.73%	2	3
Retford (Barnby Moor)	1152	1840	1745	1344	▲	+16.67%	1	1
Sherwood Forest	857	945	1377	1603	▲	+87.05%	1	2
Alfreton (Amber Valley)	1644	1544	1763	1453	▼	-11.62%	1	2
Chesterfield	2424	2420	2292	2188	▼	-9.74%	1	2

Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendation's 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 referred 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