

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee (Constitution incorporating a scheme of delegation approved by the Council on 14th May 2013).

Given the current emergency in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic and the decision taken to suspend committee meetings while social distancing measures continue, the urgency decision provision under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution has been widened to extend the consultation to include the Leaders of all the political groups on the Council.

Subject: Mansfield Crematorium – Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2020/21 and Annual Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Appropriate Committee: Mansfield and Ashfield Joint Crematorium Committee

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

The urgency procedure has been used due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ashfield District Council, Mansfield District Council, and Newark & Sherwood District Council have constituted the Joint Crematorium Committee to exercise their respective powers for the provision, running, maintenance and management of Mansfield Crematorium. Section 101(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 says that this arrangement does not prevent the Council from exercising these functions itself. It is proposed that the Council's Chief Executive considers this item by virtue of this Section and the urgency delegation set out above. It is acknowledged that the three Authorities will need to make a unanimous decision in order for it to be implemented.

Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2020/21

In accordance with the Constitution of the Joint Crematorium Committee the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair shall, in successive years, rotate between the three constituent authorities. The Chair for 2020/21 will be a Member from Mansfield District Council. The Vice Chairman for 2020/21 will be a Member from Ashfield District Council.

Mansfield District Council has nominated Councillor Andy Burgin as Chairman. Ashfield District Council has nominated Councillor Tom Hollis as Vice Chairman.

Decision

- (i) That Councillor Andy Burgin of Mansfield District Council be appointed as the Chairman of the Committee for the year 2020/21.
- (ii) That Councillor Tom Hollis of Ashfield District Council be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Committee for the year 2020/21.

Annual Statement of Accounts 2019/20

The annual statement of accounts for the Joint Crematorium Committee is a statutory document which must be produced and approved by the Committee. The report attached to this urgency decision together with its appendices (referenced below) presents the annual report and statement of accounts for 2019/2020 showing the Committee's financial position as at 31 March 2020 and the revenue and capital activity during the financial year.

The Recommendations in the report are: -

- (i) The statement of accounts as presented in Appendix A for the financial year 2019/2020 is approved.
- (ii) The 2019/2020 budgeted surplus distribution as detailed in Appendix A, page 8, 3.6, is approved.
- (iii) The remaining carried forward revenue budget of £16,997 for upgraded CCTV equipment, as detailed in 3.7, currently held in general reserves, to be carried forward into 2020/2021 is approved.
- (iv) The £750,000 capital budget for replacement abatement equipment and associated works, as detailed in 3.8, to be carried forward into 2020/2021 is approved
- (v) The revenue expenditure £11,003 for webcasting equipment as detailed in 3.7, previously approved to be financed from general reserves, is for noting only.
- (vi) The detailed revenue and capital information provided in Appendix C, is for noting only.
- (vii) The financial information provided in Appendix D and usage information provided in Appendix E, is for noting only.

In consultation regarding this report Ashfield District Council Members requested further detail regarding recommendations (iii) and (iv) in order to be suitably informed to consider approval. Mansfield District Council Officers agreed in response to provide further information in due course, but requested that in order to finalise the contract and commence abatement works without delay, the amount for the works which have been identified to date (£627,000), be approved. Officers advised that it is likely further works will be identified once the abatement work has commenced, and if so Committee will be asked to approve additional spend.

Decision

- (i) The statement of accounts as presented in Appendix A for the financial year 2019/2020 is approved.
- (ii) The 2019/2020 budgeted surplus distribution as detailed in Appendix A, page 8, 3.6, is approved.
- (iii) The £627,000 capital budget for replacement abatement equipment and associated works, as detailed in 3.8, to be carried forward into 2020/2021 is approved.

- (iv) The revenue expenditure £11,003 for webcasting equipment as detailed in 3.7, previously approved to be financed from general reserves, is noted.
- (v) The detailed revenue and capital information provided in Appendix C, is noted.
- (vi) The financial information provided in Appendix D and usage information provided in Appendix E, is noted.

Members Consulted

Joint Committee Members:

Councillor Mrs Lydia Hurst, Chairman

Councillor Tom Smith

Councillor Mrs Gill Dawn (also Group Leader)

Group Leaders:

Councillor David Lloyd

Councillor Paul Peacock

Councillor Peter Harris



Signed
Deputy Chief Executive

Date: 10 June 2020