

**MANSFIELD AND DISTRICT JOINT CREMATORIUM COMMITTEE**  
**7 DECEMBER 2020**

**MERCURY ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT**

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Committee on the provision of the new Mercury Abatement Equipment (MAE).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**To be resolved:**

- 2.1 That this update is noted.

**3.0 Background Information**

- 3.1 A report was received by the Committee on 7 September 2020 providing an update on the MAE. There was a request to increase the budget to allow for works over and above the design and installation of the MAE.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed that the budget should not be increased until such time as it was possible to get quotes for the additional Builders accommodation works.
- 3.3 As previously reported, a contract was entered into with Matthews Environmental Solutions (Matthews) on 25 August 2020. The reason for using Matthews was reported to the Committee on 16 September 2019 when Members were advised that Matthews would need to be used to ensure compatibility with the existing cremators as the control system for the abatement system has to work in sync with the cremators. Members were also advised on 24 February 2020 that the order had been placed with Matthews reiterating the need to ensure compatibility with the cremators.
- 3.4 A meeting was held on site on 29 September 2020 in order for staff to meet the Project Manager for Matthews who would be looking after this project.
- 3.5 However due to the effects of Covid-19, Matthews have not yet been able to start the design work as they do not have the resource. Since March they have been severely impacted by the pandemic with remote working, staff having to quarantine, increased lead time on bought in equipment impacting on other projects and a high demand to support their clients who would otherwise have been unable to cremate due to having equipment at the end of its service life.
- 3.6 Matthews subsequently had a 14 day closure of their production facility due to members of their production and design team testing positive for Covid-19 and only returned to work on 9 November.
- 3.7 They have now reviewed the programme of work and assessed their resource capacity. In doing so, they have considered the fact that any substantial work on the roof area

needs to be completed by the end of April due to the presence of bats. It is their view therefore that they should only start work if there is no risk of the works running beyond that time.

- 3.8 Given that they have had two closures due to Covid-19 they have anticipated some lost time due to the pandemic either from their operations or their supply chain. Based on this assessment they believe that they would not be able to be in a position to have the majority of the noisy/heavy work on the roof completed by the end of April 2021 and therefore would have to stop work and not be able re-commence work until October 2021 to comply with the restriction due to the bats. This would result in them leaving the site for five months in a state of partial construction and also having their site compound including welfare facilities etc. being there for an extended period.
- 3.9 To avoid such disruption Matthews are proposing that they commence work on site in August 2021 to carry out internal works such as removing the 4<sup>th</sup> cremator. They will do all work possible prior to this date i.e. complete the design, engage with us in layout reviews and procure long lead items so that they are able to proceed immediately in October with completing the installation.
- 3.10 Whilst this is not desirable, given the amount of disruption experienced to date and the potential for further disruption, it is a sensible approach to scheduling the works and not exposing the Crematorium to any risk of part completed works or non-compliance with the European Protected Species Licence should the work overrun into May 2021.

#### Background Papers

None.

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