

Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee

28 June 2021

Mountsett Crematorium Performance and Operational Report



Report of Graham Harrison, Bereavement Services Manager & Registrar

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Members of the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee with an update relating to performance and other operational matters.

Executive summary

- 2 This report provides Members of the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee with an update of performance and operational matters at the crematorium.

Recommendation(s)

- 3 It is recommended that Members of the Mountsett Joint Committee:
 - (a) Note the current performance of the crematorium.

Background

- 4 This report provides Members of the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee with an update of performance and operational matters at the crematorium since the last meeting of the Joint Committee.

Performance Update - Number of Cremations

5. The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 May 2021 inclusive, with comparative data in the same periods last year:

	2020/21	2021/22	Change
April	189	128	- 61
May	239	95	- 144
TOTAL	428	223	- 205

* = Non-Viable Foetus (NVF) ** = Stillborns (STs) *** = Body parts

6. There were 223 cremations undertaken during the period 1 April 2021 to 31 May 2021, compared to 428 in the comparable period last year, a decrease of 205 for this period. As Members are aware there has been a significant increase in cremations over the last 18 months due to Covid 19, however numbers in the current year are significantly lower than pre-Covid levels.

The profile of where families came from can be seen below:

Gateshead	54
Durham	125
Outside Area	44
Total	223

Memorials

7. The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period April to May 2021 compared to the same period the previous year.

	Apr – May 2020/21		Apr – May 2021/22	
	Number	£	Number	£
Large Plaques	0	0	2	804
Small Plaques	5	1,305	10	2,610
Memorial leaves	0	0	6	600
Total	5	1,305	18	4,014

8. The number and value of memorials sold of 18 / £4,014, compares to 5 / £1,305 in the same period last year, which is an increase of 13 memorials sold and £2,709 income generated.

Mountsett Cremator Replacement

9. Members will recall that updates have been given at previous meetings regarding the installation of the 2 new cremators with mercury abatement equipment to replace the existing cremators.
10. We still continue to run the temporary cremator which has been invaluable during Covid 19 and also now with regards to the replacement cremator project.
11. One of the existing cremators was removed during the weekend of the 22 May, as shown in the photographs below. Work on the construction of the replacement cremator began on Tuesday 1 June and we are currently on schedule as per the timetable below.

Description	Dates
Delivery and installation of cremator no. 2 and abatement equipment	1 June - 24 July
Commissioning and training	24 July - 21 August
Removal of existing cremator no. 1 etc.	11 - 18 September
Installation of cremator no.1 and abatement equipment	18 September - 13 November
Commissioning	13 - 20 November
Handover	11 December



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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

As outlined in the report.

Finance

As identified in the report.

Consultation

None, however, Officers of Gateshead Council were provided with a copy of the report and given opportunity to comment/raise any detailed questions on the content of the report in advance of circulation to members of the Mountseth Crematorium.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no implications

Climate Change

There are no implications

Human Rights

There are no implications

Crime and Disorder

There are no implications

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Accommodation

There are no implications

Risk

There are no implications

Procurement

There are no implications