

**29 June 2022**

**Performance and Operational Report**

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**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 a quarterly 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.
  - (b) Note the attendance at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2022.
  - (c) Note the distribution of recycling income and subsequent charity nomination.
  - (d) Note the feedback from the independent inspection report.

## Background

- 4 Update reports relating to performance and other operational matters are presented to the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee on a quarterly basis.

## Performance Update - Number of Cremations

5. The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 May 2022 inclusive, with comparative data in the same periods last year:

	2021/22	2022/23	Change
April	128	119	- 9
May	95	127	+32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>+ 23</b>

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

6. There were 246 cremations undertaken during the period 1 April 2022 to 31 May 2022, compared to 223 in the comparable period last year, an increase of 23.

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

Gateshead	60
Durham	143
Outside Area	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>

## Memorials

7. The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period April to May 2022 compared to the same period the previous year.

	(Apr - May) 2021/22		(Apr - May) 2022/23	
	Number	£	Number	£
Large Plaques	2	804	1	402
Small Plaques	10	2,610	6	1,566
Memorial Leaves	6	600	6	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,568</b>

8. In overall terms the number and value of memorials sold of 13 / £2,568, compared to 18 / £4,014 in the same period last year shows a decrease of 5 memorials sold and £1,446 income.

## Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2022

9. As in previous years, the necessary arrangements will be made for representation at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition which is to be held at Chesford Grange Hotel, near Kenilworth from 26 to 28 September 2022. It is proposed that the Bereavement Services Manager and the Chair attend this conference as representatives of the Mountsett Crematorium Joint Committee.

### **Recycling of Metals Scheme**

10. Extra funds from collections in 2021 has resulted in the next round of nominations being made available with a closing date of 1 July 2022, therefore we have nominated Children's Cancer North.

### **Mountsett Cremator Replacement**

11. Members may recall that a decision was made to appoint a company to carry out an independent inspection of the new cremator replacement installation.
12. This work was undertaken during 2021/22 with a company who specialises in the development and construction of crematoria, cemeteries and consultancy to the Bereavement Services sector.
13. Attached at Appendix 2 is the full report for Members information.
14. In summary, the decision to replace the former cremators at Mountsett only 18 months after installation was a sensible and necessary one given the companies demise.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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 Mountsett Crematorium.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

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

### **Climate Change**

There are no implications

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## Appendix 2: Independent Inspection Report.

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Mountsett cremators