

Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

29 September 2022

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 Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee with an update relating to performance and other operational matters.

Executive summary

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

Recommendation(s)

- 3 It is recommended that Members of the Central Durham Joint Committee:
 - a. Note the current performance of the crematorium.
 - b. Note the current position with regards to the staffing.
 - c. Note the updated position with regards to the recycling of metals scheme.
 - d. Note the updated position with regards to the Green Flag scheme.
 - e. Note the updated position with regards to the Heritage Weekend.
 - f. Note the current position with regards to electric generation and agree to funding of the ventilation works.

- g. Note and agree the content of the Service Asset Management Plan attached at Appendix 5, which will be factored into budget planning in 2023/24 and beyond.

Background

- 4 This report provides Members of the Central Durham 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 June 2022 to 31 August 2022 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2021/22	2022/23	Change
June	161 + 1*	192 + 1*	+ 31 + 0*
July	180 + 2*	206 + 2*	+ 26 + 0*
August	171 + 0*	198 + 1*	+ 27 + 1*
TOTAL	512 + 3*	596 + 4*	+ 84 + 1*

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

- 6 The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary 177 came from Durham, 26 came from Spennymoor and 393 from other areas. There have been 4 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 3 in the comparable period last year. There were 84 more cremations undertaken in the period June to August 2022 compared to the same period last year.

Memorials

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

	Jun-Aug	2021/22	Jun-Aug	2022/23
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	2	1,294	6	4,044
Large Plaques	17	7,152	12	5,154
Small Plaques	4	1,059	1	276
Niche	2	2,543	2	2,491
Renewal	61	12,151	41	7,919
Memorial leaves	8	800	14	1,400
Total	94	24,999	76	21,284

- 8 The number and value of memorials sold 76 / £21,284 compares to 94 / £24,999 in the same period last year, which is a decrease of 18 memorials sold and a decrease of £3,715 year on year.

Staffing

- 9 Members may recall that a staff restructure report was approved by the Joint Committee in January 2022 and I can now confirm that this process has been completed.
- 10 The Assistant Superintendent and Registrar's post was deleted in the restructure and the postholder was unable to meet the criteria for the new Site Manager post. There were no alternative positions available for the postholder, so he was offered ERVR and is due to leave the Authority on the 19 October 2022. The £47,135 cost of the redundancy and early retirement has been incorporated within the financial monitoring report.
- 11 The position of Crematorium Site Manager was therefore advertised and we had 2 internal applicants. Interviews were held and I am pleased to announce that Kayleigh Cook was offered the position and has since taken up the post. Members may recollect that Kayleigh started off as a business administration apprentice with us.
- 12 This then left a gap of a Technical Assistant post to which we advertised and have recently appointed to.
- 13 Unfortunately, another Crematorium Attendants' position has become vacant due to the existing member of staff leaving to take up another role within the Authority and we are therefore in the process of advertising this position.

Recycling of Metals Scheme

- 14 Members may recall from the last meeting that extra funds from collections in 2021 had resulted in a second round of nominations being made available, therefore we nominated Daft as A Brush Cancer Patient Care. The Chair presented a cheque for £12,000 on 23 August 2022 and a photograph of the presentation and letter of thanks is shown at Appendix 3.

Green Flag Application

- 15 The Green Flag Award recognises good quality parks and green spaces, and a sign to visitors that sites are well maintained and well managed with excellent facilities. Once again, this year Durham

Crematorium was successful in obtaining a Green Flag Award for the eleventh year running, which is a great achievement.

- 16 This award is testimony to the dedication of the staff working at the Crematorium and comes on top of the award of Gold Star Status in the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Accreditation.

Heritage Open Weekend

- 17 Members will be aware that the Durham Heritage Open Weekend has been running for several years and Durham Crematorium has been part of this event.
- 18 We once again participated in the 2022 event, which was held from Thursday 15 to Sunday 18 September.

Crematorium Roadway Extension

- 19 As Members may recall, we undertook some roadway widening work earlier in the year and I can now confirm that the new crematorium gates have been fitted, as shown in the photographs below. If Members are passing the Crematorium they would be welcome to call in and take a look.





Electricity Generation

- 20 Members may recall that an item was raised at a previous meeting about electricity generation from excess heat from cremators.
- 21 A report has now been undertaken regarding this and also with regards to excess heat within the crematorium and is attached at Appendix 4.
- 22 Previous installation quotations from specialist contractors indicated an expected cost of between £400,000 to £500,000 for Durham Crematorium. The estimated payback period would be in excess of 40 years. Therefore, the Construction Consultancy services section wouldn't recommend this type of system. Further consultation will be ongoing with regards to this option.
- 23 However, they have recommended that we install fans and heat recovery systems to some areas around the building to help reduce internal air temperatures within the charging area and provide adequate mechanical ventilation to cap maximum summer-time temperatures.
- 24 Should Members approve these works at a cost of £83,874, they will be incorporated within the 2023/24 capital budget.

Service Asset Management Plan

- 23 The previous Service Asset Management Plan (SAMP) was presented to Members on 29 September 2021 and has been reviewed and updated to provide further direction and highlight future budget pressures for the Joint Committee. The SAMP is attached at Appendix 5 and will need to be refined in line with any future decisions taken by Members.
- 24 The Service Asset Management Plan is split into four priorities of maintenance need and includes all of the completed and planned crematorium improvement works.

Priority 1 essential works for 2023/24 have been estimated to the sum of £93,049. These will need to be considered as part of the budget setting process for next year. These works include:

- Relining of 1 hearth
- Installation of resin pathway around bottom memorial garden
- Improvements to entrance area
- Removal of shrubs
- Improvements to garden fountain
- Purchase of additional memorial leaf tree
- Improvements to walls
- Creation of new memorial garden

Priority 2 works, which will need to feature in 2024/25 budget plans have been estimated to the sum of £1,614,730 and the works are set out below:

- Redecoration works
- Relining of 1 hearth
- Relining of cremator 1
- Purchase and install resomation system/building
- Installation of resin pathway around top memorial garden

Priority 3 works, which would fall beyond the next two years, have been estimated to the sum of £96,000 and the works are set out below:

- Relining of 1 hearth
- Installation of resin pathway around turning circle
- Relining of 1 cremator

Longer term works have been costed to the sum of £544,000 and some of the works include:

- Redecoration works x 4
- Carry out Relining of 3 cremators x 2 Year 2028,2029
- Carry out Relining of hearths x 9

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report

Finance

As identified in the report with regards to the position of the Income.

Consultation

Officers of Spennymoor Town Council were consulted on the contents of this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no Human Rights implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no Crime and Disorder implications associated with this report.

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications associated with this report.

Risk

As identified in the report.

Procurement

There are no procurement issues associated with this report.

Climate Change

There are no climate change issues associated with this report.

Appendix 2: Breakdown of Figures

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
DURHAM	55	65	57	177
BILLINGHAM	1		1	2
BISHOP AUCKLAND	5	8	7	20
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM			2	2
BLACKHALL	1	2	2	5
BIRTLEY	1			1
BURNHOPE		1		1
CHESTER LE STREET	24	15	11	50
CHESHIRE			1	1
CHILTON		2	1	3
CONSETT		3		3
CROOK	1	3	8	12
DARLINGTON	2	1	2	5
EASINGTON	6	10	8	24
ESH WINNING	3	4	4	11
FENCEHOUSES	3	1		4
FERRYHILL	4	3	2	9
FISHBURN			2	2
GATESHEAD	1	1	1	3
GREAT LUMLEY	1	3	2	6
HARTLEPOOL	1		1	2
HASWELL	1	1	2	4
HETTON LE HOLE	2	4	2	8
HORDEN	1	3	2	6
HOUGHTON	7	3	7	17
HOWDEN	1	1	1	3
LANCHESTER		1	1	2
LANGLEY PARK		5	2	7
MORPETH		1		1
MURTON	1	3	5	9
NEW BRANCEPETH		2		2
NEWTON AYCLIFFE			4	4
NORTHUMBERLAND	1			1
PELTON	2	2	1	5
PETERLEE	13	1	8	22
SACRISTON	6	7	3	16
SEAHAM	9	10	10	29
SEDFIELD	1	3	1	5
SHILDON	1	1		2
SHOTTON	3	2	4	9

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
SOUTH HETTON	2	3	1	6
SPENNYMOOR	10	8	8	26
STANHOPE		2	1	3
STANLEY	4			4
STOCKTON		1	1	2
SUNDERLAND	3	3	1	7
THORNLEY	2	2	4	8
TRIMDON	2	2	2	6
WASHINGTON	1	3	1	5
WEST CORNFORTH		1	3	4
WHEATLEY HILL	2	3	3	8
WILLINGTON	3	2	1	6
WINGATE	4	3	5	12
WOLSINGHAM			1	1
WYNYARD			1	1
YORKSHIRE	1	1		2
Total	192	206	198	596

Appendix 3: Cheque presentation



Cheque presentation to Daft as a Brush from our Chair Cllr Neil Forster to Brian Burnie Trustee.



Daft as a Brush
CANCER PATIENT CARE



Mr. Graham Harrison, FICCM (Dip), LCGI.
Bereavement Services Manager & Registrar (Countywide),
Durham County Council,
South Road,
Durham,
DH1 3TQ

18 August 2022

Dear Mr Harrison

Thank you for the donation of £12,000.00 to Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care from the Bereavement Services Durham County Council.

Your very kind gift will further assist the work the Cancer Charity provides for patients that require a bespoke transport service to and from Hospital, whilst undergoing Chemotherapy and/or Radiotherapy treatment.

This personal service, provided to the patients and their family is and always will be free of charge.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Burnie Trustee
Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care

PART OF THE JOURNEY TO RECOVERY

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care Charitable Trust

Registered Office: Daft as a Brush House, Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2DR. Tel: (0191) 28 55 999

Email: info@daftasabrush.org.uk Registered charity number 328 432 Company Number 233 3474

Donate, explore and find out more at www.daftasabrush.org.uk



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Appendix 4: Electric Generation
