

**Central Durham Crematorium Joint  
Committee**

**25 January 2023**



**Quarterly 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 Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee with the quarterly update relating to performance and other operational matters.

**Executive summary**

- 2 This report provides Members of the Central Durham 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 Central Durham Joint Committee:
  - a. Note the current performance of the crematorium.
  - b. Note the continued success with regards to the Green Flag Award.
  - c. Note the updated position with regards to the recycling of metals scheme.
  - d. Agree to the installation of a barrier access control system to the staff car park.
  - e. Agree to St Cuthbert's Hospice providing a Christmas tree again in 2023.

## Performance Update - Number of Cremations

- 4 The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 December 2022 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2021/22	2022/23	Change
September	206 + 0*	180 + 2*	- 26 + 2*
October	200 + 2*	186 + 0*	- 14 - 2*
November	231 + 4*	227 + 0*	- 4 - 4*
December	204 + 0*	207 + 2*	+ 3 + 2*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>841 + 6*</b>	<b>800 + 4*</b>	<b>- 41 - 2*</b>

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

- 5 The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary 224 came from Durham, 44 came from Spennymoor and 532 from other areas. There have been 4 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 6 in the comparable period last year. There were 41 less cremations undertaken in the period September to December 2022 compared to the same period last year.

## Memorials

- 6 The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period 1 September to 31 December 2022 compared to the same period the previous year.

	Sept-Dec	2021/22	Sept-Dec	2022/23
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	8	5,176	8	1,310
Large Plaques	13	5,496	15	6,480
Small Plaques	1	276	2	537
Niche	1	141	3	4,058
Renewal	56	10,602	39	7,389
Leaf plaques	9	900	15	1,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>22,591</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>21,214</b>

- 7 The number and value of memorials sold 82 / £21,214 compares to 88 / £22,591 in the same period in 2021/22, which is a decrease of 6 memorial sold and a small decrease of £1,377 year on year.

## **Operational Matters**

### **Green Flag Award**

- 8 Members will recall from the September 2022 meeting that the Central Durham Crematorium was successful in retaining its Green Flag award for the eleventh year running.
- 9 An application will be submitted for the 2023 award and progress will be reported back to future meetings. A management plan to maintain the required standards will be updated and any required works will be covered by existing budgets.

### **Recycling of Metals Scheme**

- 10 Collections in 2022 have resulted in a second round of nominations being made available and further to requests from Members, it has been confirmed that we can now nominate two charities at a time. Therefore, ManHealth and Teenage Cancer Trust have been nominated and we hope to have a response by the end of March.

### **Staff Car Park**

- 11 Members may be aware that several years ago a staff car park was created at the side of the crematorium with a sign on display advising that it is a staff car park. This is well utilised, however more recently the car park is being used by members of the public and clergy to avoid having to walk as far to the crematorium building.
- 12 A number of staff vehicles have also been damaged by members of the public who are not taking notice of the signage which also prevents staff from being able to park in the designated area.
- 13 It is proposed to install a barrier access control system to prevent unauthorised access to the staff car park. Discussion have been undertaken with the Chair and a site visit was organised to show first hand the issue. A cost of £7,220 is required to fund this work which can be undertaken using current year budget underspends, subject to Members approval.

### **Christmas Tree**

- 14 St. Cuthbert's Hospice has requested that they be allowed to continue to provide a Christmas tree again in 2023. The Hospice supplies the tree and decorations at no cost to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee. St Cuthbert's managed to raise £57.55 from donations from the sale of decorations in 2022.



15 No other requests have been received from any organisation to place a Christmas tree at the Crematorium.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **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.

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## Appendix 2: Breakdown of Figures

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	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
DURHAM	41	53	70	60	224
BARNARD CASTLE	1			1	2
BISHOP AUCKLAND	5	5	5	7	22
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM	1			1	2
BLACKHALL	1	5	1	3	10
BIRTLEY		1			1
CHESTER LE STREET	16	12	19	12	59
CHESHIRE				1	1
CHILTON	2	1	3	1	7
CONSETT	2	1	2	2	7
CORNSAY				1	1
CROOK	2	5	4	10	21
DARLINGTON	1	1	3	1	6
EASINGTON	4	3	4	4	15
EAST RAINTON			1	1	2
ESH			1		1
ESH WINNING	3	4	2	1	10
FENCEHOUSES	1				1
FERRYHILL	7	1	9	3	20
FISHBURN	2		2	1	5
GATESHEAD		1	1		2
GREAT LUMLEY	1			1	2
HARTLEPOOL	1		1	1	3
HASWELL		4	1		5
HETTON LE HOLE	4	3	4	5	16
HORDEN	5	7	4	7	23
HOUGHTON	4	4	5	3	16
LANCHESTER	3	3			6
LANGLEY PARK	2	3	1	4	10
MURTON	7	4	4	4	19
NETTLESWORTH				1	1
NEW BRANCEPETH			1		1
NEWCASTLE	3	1	1		5
NEWTON AYCLIFFE	2	3	5	2	12
NORTHUMBERLAND	1		2		3
PELTON	2		1	2	5
PETERLEE	12	11	16	8	47
SACRISTON	5	1	3	6	15
SEAHAM	5	10	6	13	34

SEDGEFIELD			2		2
SHILDON			1		1
SHOTTON	1	5	4	10	20
SOUTH HETTON	1	1	1		3
SPENNYMOOR	11	8	13	12	44
STANHOPE	1	1			2
STANLEY	2		2		4
SUNDERLAND	1	2	2	1	6
SUNNYBROW	1				1
SOUTHERN ENGLAND		1			1
THORNLEY	3	3	2	1	9
TOW LAW	1	1	1		3
TRIMDON	1	4		2	7
WASHINGTON	1		4	2	7
WEST AUCKLAND		1		1	2
WEST CORNFORTH	1	2	5	2	10
WHEATLEY HILL	2	2		4	8
WILLINGTON	1	2	4	2	9
WINGATE	4	4	1	2	11
WOLSINGHAM	1	1	1		3
YORKSHIRE/LANCASHIRE	1	1	2	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>800</b>