

Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

26 April 2023

Quarterly 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 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 Crematorium Joint Committee:
 - a) Note the current performance of the crematorium.
 - b) Note the attendance at the Joint Conference of the Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities and the Cremation Society of Great Britain.
 - c) Note the distribution of recycling income to the respective charities.

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 January to 31 March 2023 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2021/22	2022/23	Change
January	225 + 0*	263 + 1	+ 38 + 1*
February	233 + 3*	262 + 2*	+ 29 - 1*
March	206 + 0*	217 + 3*	+ 11 + 3*
TOTAL	664 + 3*	742 + 6*	+ 78 + 3*

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

6. The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary, 224 came from Durham, 40 came from Spennymoor and 478 from other areas. There have been 6 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 3 in the comparable period last year. There were 78 more cremations undertaken in the period January to March 2023 compared to the same period last year.
7. The total number of cremations in 2022/23 was 2,513 compared with 2,306 in 2021/22, an increase of 207 cremations.
8. The 2022/23 budget was set at a prudent assumption of 2,200 cremations during the year. The actual number of cremations undertaken was therefore 313 more than the budgeted position. This is reflected in an over achievement of cremation fee income of £201,809 in year, which is included in the budgetary control report.
9. The table below shows the comparative figures for the previous ten financial years:

Year	Cremations
2013/14	2,227
2014/15	2,287
2015/16	2,247
2016/17	2,324
2017/18	2,294
2018/19	2,392
2019/20	2,351
2020/21	2,738
2021/22	2,306
2022/23	2,513
10 Year Average	2,368

10. For Members information, the table below provides details of the number of direct cremations, which are included in the totals above, for

the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2021/22	2022/23	Change
Direct Cremation – Attended	0	0	0
Direct Cremation - Unattended	76	102	+ 26
TOTAL	76	102	+ 26

Memorials

11. The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period January to March 2023 compared to the same period the previous year.

	Jan-March	2021/22	Jan-March	2022/23
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	7	4,572	6	3,952
Large Plaques	17	7,164	22	9,494
Small Plaques	1	276	5	1,380
Niche	3	2,580	1	1,335
Renewal	47	8,020	41	8,009
Seat	0	0	1	528
Leaf Plaques	18	1,800	21	2,100
Total	93	24,412	97	26,798

12. In overall terms, the number and value of memorials sold of 97 / £26,798 compares to 93 / £24,412 in the same period last year. This is a year on year increase of 4 memorials sold and £2,386 in terms of income generated.
13. The table below identifies the total number and value of memorials sold during 2022/23 compared to 2021/22:

	2021/22 Total		2022/23 Total	
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	21	13,684	23	11,220
Large Plaques	64	27,006	62	26,564
Small Plaques	8	2,133	9	2,454
Niche	7	6,484	6	7,884
Renewal	182	33,965	143	27,557
Seat	0	0	1	528
Leaf Plaques	47	4,700	56	5,540
Total	329	87,972	300	81,747

Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition 2023

14. The Joint Conference of the Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities and the Cremation Society of Great Britain is to be held at the Hilton Ageas Bowl, Southampton from Monday 26th to Wednesday 28th June 2023. As in previous years, the necessary arrangements will be made for representation at the conference by the Chair and Bereavement Services Manager.

Recycling of Metals Scheme

15. Members were advised at the previous meeting that we had nominated ManHealth and Teenage Cancer Trust and a payment of £6,000 was made to each charity in April.
16. For members information we are currently trialling out a new company with regards to collection of metals for recycling which could increase distribution for charities.

Contact: Graham Harrison

Tel: 03000 265606

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.

Climate Change

There are no implications.

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.

Appendix 2: Breakdown of Figures

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Durham	77	76	71	224
Barnard Castle			1	1
Billingham			1	1
Bishop Auckland	3	6	6	15
Blackhall	2	2	1	5
Birtley		2		2
Chester Le Street	18	22	12	52
Chilton	1	3	4	8
Consett		2		2
Crook	7	6	3	16
Darlington	2		1	3
Easington	5	6	6	17
East Rainton	1			1
Esh	1			1
Esh Winning	7	4	3	14
Fencehouses	1		1	2
Ferryhill	6	10	9	25
Frosterley	1			1
Gateshead	1			1
Great Lumley	1		2	3
Hartlepool			2	2
Haswell		2	4	6
Hetton Le Hole	4	3	7	14
Horden	10	5	3	18
Houghton	11	6	8	25
Howden			1	1
Lanchester			2	2
Langley Park	1	7	4	12
Murton	1	5	1	7
New Brancepeth	2			2
Newcastle	2	2		4
Newton Aycliffe	2	6	3	11
Northumberland		2		2
Ouston	2	2		4
Pelton	1	2	2	5
Peterlee	18	16	9	43
Sacrison	7	2	4	13
Seaham	7	14	4	25
Sedgefield	4	3		7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Sildon	1	3		4
Shiney Row			1	1
Shotton	6	4	2	12
South Hetton	2	1	2	5
Spennymoor	18	9	13	40
Stanhope		2		2
Stanley	4	2	1	7
Station Town			2	2
Sunderland	2			2
Sunnybrow	2		1	3
Southern England		2		2
Thornley	2	5	1	8
Tow Law	1	2	1	4
Trimdon	4	4	3	11
Washington		1	2	3
West Auckland			1	1
West Cornforth	3	2	3	8
Wheatley Hill	1	2	3	6
Willington	7	1	4	12
Wingate	1	2	1	4
Wolsingham	1	1	1	3
Wynyard	1	1		2
Yorkshire/Lancashire	1	2		3
Total	263	262	217	742