

**Central Durham Crematorium Joint
Committee**

31 January 2024



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 Joint Committee:
 - a. Note the current performance of the crematorium.
 - b. Note the current staffing issues.
 - c. Note the continued success with regards to the Green Flag Award.
 - d. Note the updated position with regards to the recycling of metals scheme.
 - e. Agree to St Cuthbert's Hospice providing a Christmas tree again in 2024.
 - f. Note the Consultation on review of Cremation Guidance PGN (5/12)

Performance Update - Number of Cremations

- 4 The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 December 2023 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2022/23	2023/24	Change
September	180 + 2*	181 + 1*	+ 1 - 1*
October	186 + 0*	187 + 1*	+ 1 + 1*
November	227 + 0*	209 + 2*	- 18 + 2*
December	207 + 2*	216 + 4*	+ 9 + 2*
TOTAL	800 + 4*	793 + 8*	- 7 + 4*

* = 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 251 came from Durham, 35 came from Spennymoor and 507 from other areas. There have been 8 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 4 in the comparable period last year. There were 7 less cremations undertaken in the period September to December 2023 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 2023 compared to the same period the previous year.

	Sept-Dec	2022/23	Sept-Dec	2023/24
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	8	1,310	7	4,694
Large Plaques	15	6,480	21	9,084
Small Plaques	2	537	1	273
Niche	3	4,058	2	2,612
Renewal	39	7,389	48	8,651
Leaf plaques	15	1,440	13	1,300
Total	82	21,214	92	26,614

- 7 The number and value of memorials sold 92 / £26,614 compares to 82 / £21,214 in the same period in 2022/23, which is an increase of 10 memorials sold and a small increase of £5,400 year on year.

Operational Matters

Staffing

- 8 For members information, one of our casual relief crematorium attendants has now left the Authority and the remaining relief is now covering a 10-month appointment for one of our crematorium attendants who has been appointed as a bereavement officer. Therefore, we will need to advertise for 2 more casual reliefs.

Green Flag Award

- 9 Members will recall from the September 2023 meeting that the Central Durham Crematorium was successful in retaining its Green Flag award for the twelfth year running.
- 10 An application will be submitted for the 2024 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

- 11 Collections in the 2nd round of Metals nominations for 2023/24 have resulted in another round of nominations being made available therefore we nominated 2 charities READLEY - Asbestos and Mesothelioma Support and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust a bacs payment of £7,000 will be made to each Charity. (Please see Appendix 3 showing the cheque presentations made to the charities).

Christmas Tree

- 12 St. Cuthbert's Hospice has requested that they be allowed to continue to provide a Christmas tree again in 2024. The Hospice supplies the tree and decorations at no cost to the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee.



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

Consultation on review of Cremation Guidance PGN (5/12)

- 14 For members information the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs has carried out a consultation on proposed new guidance that will replace the existing crematoria guidance PG5/2 (12).
- 15 I have responded to the consultation, however if some of this proposed new guidance is implemented then there will be additional costs involved for the service. From 1st January 2027, all cremators will need to be fitted with appropriate fuel and electricity metering. The fitting of Nitrogen oxide (NOx) equipment may be required in the future. Also increased costs with regards to emission testing will be required, as well as the removal of the CAMEO scheme.
- 16 Once we have confirmation of these changes and additional costs then this will be factored into future budget setting.

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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

	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total Sept- Dec
DURHAM	56	65	59	71	251
BARNARD CASTLE				1	1
BISHOP AUCKLAND	7	1	6	3	17
BLACKHALL	5	5	6	6	22
BIRTLEY			2		2
CHESTER LE STREET	9	11	12	11	43
CHILTON		1	1		2
CONSETT	1	2	2	2	7
CROOK	2	2	2	7	13
DARLINGTON		1			1
EASINGTON	3	5	6	4	18
EAST RAINTON		1	1		2
ESH			1	1	2
ESH WINNING	4	5	4	3	16
FENCEHOUSES				2	2
FERRYHILL	2	6	3	6	17
FISHBURN				1	1
FROSTERLEY	1				1
GATESHEAD	1			1	2
GREAT LUMLEY	4	4	4		12
HARTLEPOOL		3	2		5
HASWELL	1		1	2	4
HETTON LE HOLE	2	2	2	8	14
HORDEN	3		6	4	13
HOUGHTON	2	8	6	8	24
HOWDEN			1		1
LANCHESTER	3		2		5
LANGLEY PARK	3	3	1	2	9
MURTON	5	3	2	5	15
NETTLESWORTH	2	1		1	4
NEW BRANCEPETH	1		1	2	4
NEWCASTLE	1	1	1		3
NEWTON AYCLIFFE	1	5	5	7	18
NORTHUMBERLAND		1	1		2
OUSTON		2	1	1	4
PELTON			1	2	3
PETERLEE	13	12	14	12	51
SACRISTON	1	2	2		5
SEAHAM	8	3	4	8	23
SEDFIELD	2		5	3	10
SHILDON	1		2	1	4
SHINEY ROW	1		1		2
SHOTTON	3	3	4		10
SOUTH HETTON	1	1		2	4
SPENNYMOOR	11	6	8	10	35

STANHOPE	1		1	1	3
STANLEY		4	2	2	8
STATION TOWN	1				1
STOCKTON			1	1	2
SUNDERLAND	4	2	1	2	9
SUNNYBROW			1		1
Southern England			3	2	5
THORNLEY	3	2	1	1	7
TOW LAW		2			2
TRIMDON	1	5	3	1	10
WASHINGTON	1	1		1	3
WEST CORNFORTH	4	1	3	2	10
WHEATLEY HILL	2	1	2	2	7
WILLINGTON	1	2	1	2	6
WINGATE	2	1	5	2	10
WOLSINGHAM			1		1
YORKSHIRE			2		2
WYNARD	1				1
U.S.A.		1			1
Total	181	187	209	216	793

Appendix 3: Recycling of Metals Cheque Presentations



Cheque presentation to Pat Chambers from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust by the Chair Cllr Shirley Quinn and Mr Ian Geldard – Spennymoor Town Council Mayor.



Cheque presentation to members of READLEY – Asbestos and Mesothelioma Support North East.