

**Central Durham Crematorium
Joint Committee**

27 June 2018

**Quarterly Performance and
Operational Report**



Report of Graham Harrison, Bereavement Services Manager

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.

Performance Update - Number of Cremations

2. The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 April to 31 May 2018 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2017/18	2018/19	Change
April	166 + 1*	215 + 1*	+ 49 0*
May	209 + 0*	229 + 1*	+ 20 + 1*
TOTAL	375 + 1*	444 + 2*	+ 69 + 1*

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

3. The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary 139 came from Durham, 23 came from Spennymoor and 282 from outside of the area. There have been 2 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 1 in the comparable period last year, which is an increase of 1 NVF and an increase of 69 cremations.
4. The increase is consistent with Office for National Statistics data which shows there were nearly 20,000 more deaths in England and Wales in the first five months of 2018 compared to the same periods in the previous five years, prompting calls for a Government investigation. Some statisticians believe it can be attributed to the difficulties experienced within the NHS and cuts in care, along with a winter flu outbreak.

Memorials

5. The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in April and May 2018 compared to the same period last year.

	(Apr – May) 2017/18		(Apr – May) 2018/19	
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	4	2,668	5	3,316
Large Plaques	18	8,356	7	2,964
Small Plaques	1	281	1	261
Niche	1	1,348	0	0
Renewal	13	2,237	16	2,306
Total	37	14,890	29	8,847

6. In overall terms the number and value of memorials sold of 29 / £8,847 compared to 37 / £14,890 in the same period last year - a decrease of 12 / £6,043 year on year.

Operational Matters

Staffing

7. Members agreed at the April 2018 meeting to advertise for a Business Administration Apprentice position. This has now been advertised at Durham County Council, Spennymoor Town Council and through the National Apprentice website, with a closing date of 10 June 2018.

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2018

8. 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 Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common, Nr Thame, Oxfordshire from 1 to 3 October 2018. It is proposed that the Bereavement Services Manager and the Chair attend this conference as representatives of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee.

Recycling of Metals Scheme

9. Members may recall that the Crematorium received a cheque relating to the recycling of metals scheme from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management to the sum of £5,000 for Marie Curie. Arrangements were made for the Chair to present the cheque to the charity and a photograph of the presentation is attached at Appendix 3.
10. Additional funds from collections in 2017 have resulted in an extra round of nominations being made available and we have just received another cheque to the sum of £5,000 for Cruse Bereavement Care. Arrangements are to be made for the cheque to be presented to the charity by the Committee Chair, Vice Chair and the Bereavement Services Manager.

Recommendations:

11. It is recommended that Members of the Central Durham Joint Committee:
 - (i) Note the current performance of the crematorium.
 - (ii) Note the situation with regards to the Business Admin Apprentice post.
 - (iii) Note the attendance at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention.
 - (iv) Note the distribution of recycling income to the respective charity.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

As identified in the report with regards to the position of the Income and the crematorium improvement works.

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Risk

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Accommodation

The development project will improve customer and staff accommodation.

Crime and Disorder

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

Human Rights

There are no Human Rights implications associated with this report.

Consultation

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

Procurement

There are no procurement issues associated with this report.

Disability Issues

There are no disability issues associated with this report.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Appendix 2: Breakdown of Figures

	Apr	May	Total Apr-May
Durham	69	70	139
Barnard Castle	1	1	2
Bishop Auckland	9	10	19
Blackhall	1	1	2
Burnhope	0	1	1
Chester Le Street	22	28	50
Chilton	1	2	3
Consett	2	2	4
Crook	3	5	8
Darlington	3	0	3
Easington	7	3	10
Esh Winning	2	1	3
Ferryhill	6	7	13
Fishburn	1	1	2
Gateshead	0	1	1
Great Lumley	1	0	1
Hartlepool	1	2	3
Haswell	2	1	3
Hetton Le Hole	3	5	8
Horden	6	3	9
Houghton	2	3	5
Howden	0	1	1
Lanchester	1	0	1
Langley Park	1	5	6
London/Kent	2	0	2
Murton	4	2	6
New Brancepeth	1	0	1
Newton Aycliffe	5	4	9
Norfolk	1	0	1
Ouston	0	1	1
Peterlee	11	13	24
Sacrison	3	2	5
Seaham	9	7	16
Sedgefield	2	3	5
Shildon	1	0	1
Shiney Row	2	0	2
Shotton	3	3	6
South Hetton	0	1	1
Spennymoor	8	15	23
Stanhope	1	1	2

Stanley	0	1	1
Station Town	0	1	1
Sunderland	1	1	2
Sunnybrow	1	0	1
Thornley	2	1	3
Tow Law	1	0	1
Trimdon	3	3	6
Wallsend	1	0	1
West Cornforth	0	5	5
Wheatley Hill	5	6	11
Willington	0	1	1
Wingate	3	3	6
Wolsingham	1	2	3
Total	215	229	444

Appendix 3: Recycling of metals cheque presentation

