

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES UPDATE1. Purpose of report

To provide the Joint Committee with various updates regarding Bramcote Bereavement Services.

2. Detail

- Work on the new more secure perimeter fence began earlier this month (£50,000 budgeted).
- Officers are continuing to tender options for a replacement crematorium and burials software system (£15,700 budgeted).
- Committee on 10 January 2019 also approved the following items for implementation in 2019/20:
 - Replacement Windows £10,000
 - Replacement Fascia Boards £15,000
 - Replace Buggy £7,000

No work has yet started on these but they will be completed within 2019/20.

Table of comparative cremation numbers by year:

Year	Number
2014/15	3171
2015/16	3134
2016/17	3003
2017/18	2745
2018/19	2471

The 2019/20 budget is based on 2,600 cremations per annum and this figure may need reconsideration in future years. Further to the Finance report on this agenda the appendix considers Bramcote Crematorium's charges compared with other neighbouring crematoria.

Committee may wish to consider a more refined pricing strategy to reflect changes in society and to take account of funeral poverty. For example:

- Direct cremations with no service of family attendance
- Early morning services at cheaper prices

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE this report and to CONSIDER the recommendation in the appendix to offer additional pricing options.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

Charges at neighbouring crematoria

Charges quoted are for weekday adult cremations and are either 2019/20 financial year or 2019 calendar year. Further to a previous query from members of this committee, no neighbouring crematoria appear to offer discounts to serving or former members of the armed forces or other uniformed services.

Crematorium	Definition of "adult"	All day or peak charge	Early am charge	Direct cremation
Chesterfield	18+	£750	£560	n/a
Gedling	17+	£745	n/a	£500
Wilford Hill (Nottm City)	16+	£744 (non res) £667 (City res)	n/a	£525
Markeaton (Derby)	16+	£737	£553	n/a
Mansfield	16+	£720	£450	£450-£600
Bramcote	18+	£712	n/a	n/a

It can be seen that in terms of the basic fee Bramcote Crematorium offers the lowest charge in the region (other than residents of Nottingham City at Wilford Hill). However, it is possible to obtain a cheaper price than Bramcote by choosing an early morning and/or direct cremation option elsewhere.

It is recommended that Committee consider a new pricing strategy offering reduced fees for early morning and/or direct cremation options. This to be brought back to a future meeting of this committee for more detailed consideration.