

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

12th MARCH 2024

FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSALS 2024/25

REPORT OF THE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR MANAGER

Author: Mrs Jayne Beer (Bereavement Services Manager and Registrar Manager)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out proposed revisions to the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee fees and charges levels for the 2024/25 financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

2.1 Note and agree the proposed revisions to the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee fees and charges levels for the 2024/25 financial year and for the proposed revisions to be effective from 1st April 2024 or as soon as is practicable thereafter.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To provide the Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Committee with details of proposed revisions to fees and charges for the 2024/25 financial year as part of the overall arrangements to set a balanced Revenue Budget for next financial year (2024/25).

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Llwydcoed Crematorium provides a comprehensive range of high quality services and the ability to apply a charge is an important source of funding to support the cost of maintaining service provision, this being increasingly important in the context of a prolonged period of rising cost pressures.

4.2 As part of reviewing fees and charges levels, consideration is given to the level of inflation with the general or Consumer Prices Index 12-month rate of inflation ranging from 8.7% in April 2023 to 4.0% in January 2024 and, alongside this, specific areas of expenditure such as energy prices have remained high compared to previous periods.

4.3 For Members information, as part of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Budget Consultation process for 2024/25, 67.5% of respondents agreed with the Council's fees and charges

proposals that included a general rate of increase of 5%¹, with the Council absorbing the implications of not applying uplifts in line with specific levels of inflation.

5. REVIEW

- 5.1 The Crematorium's fees and charges levels have been reviewed taking into the account the information set out in Section 4 with the objective to continue to provide a comprehensive range of quality services at affordable prices.
- 5.2 The outcome of the review is a proposed 5.0% increase to fees and charges, with the Crematorium absorbing the impact of not applying the full inflationary increases being felt across specific expenditure areas. The proposals have been compared to the latest information available in neighbouring areas and confirms that the Crematorium's proposed fees and charges levels would continue to be competitively priced.
- 5.3 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 in respect of the main services provided (noting that incidental services provided will also be uplifted in line with proposal set out in paragraph 5.2). Subject to the Joint Committee's consideration and approval of fees and charges levels for 2024/25, an updated schedule will be published on the Crematorium's website.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Due regard has been given to the public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, namely the Public Sector Equality Duty and Socio-Economic Duty.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact screening assessment has been completed and concluded that the recommendation set out in the report is in line with the above legislation.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no consultation implications as a result of the recommendation in this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The estimated financial implications of the proposed fees and charges levels for 2024/25 has been built into the 'Budget Monitoring Report for 2023/24 and Draft Revenue Estimates for 2024/25' Report, as part of this meeting agenda.

¹ Fees and Charges – Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's fees and charges proposals also included a number of areas that were frozen and others where the uplift was below 5%.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendation set out in the report.

11. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

11.1 Fees and charges income is a critical component of the funding arrangements for the Crematorium to support the continued provision of a comprehensive range of high quality services at affordable prices and in doing so contribute to the delivery of strategic priorities.

11.2 The proposals also complement the requirements of the Well Being of Future Generations Act in helping to provide Services with adequate resources to continue their work in shaping provision fit for the future and, in doing so, enable positive contributions to be made toward meeting the seven national wellbeing goals.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 This report sets out proposed revisions to the Crematorium's fees and charges levels for 2024/25 for the Joint Committee's consideration and approval.

LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE –
PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2024/25

| Main Services Provided | 2023/24 | 2024/25 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cremation fee | £813.00 | £854.00 |
| Purchase of cremation plot | £311.00 | £327.00 |
| Interment in cremation plot | £311.00 | £327.00 |

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

12th MARCH 2024

FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSALS 2024/25

REPORT OF THE BEREAVEMENT SERVICES AND REGISTRAR MANAGER

Background Papers

None

Officer to contact: Jayne Beer (Bereavement Services Manager and Registrar Manager)