

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

20th March 2018

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

**CREMATION & SUPPLEMENTARY FEES AND CHARGES
2018-19**

**Author: Paul Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community
Services
Tel. No. 01443 425513**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set the fees & charges for 2018-19, including the annual uplift effective from 1st April 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that with effect from 1st April 2017:
- a) Consider and if appropriate approve the revised levels for cremation and all supplementary fees and charges detailed at section 4, and
 - b) Consider and, if appropriate agree to implement a 12 month pilot scheme in respect of bereavement fees for armed forces veterans (paragraph 4.6).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on the 15th February 2018, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Cabinet agreed the annual increase to fees and charges for 2018/19. This included an increase to cremation fees of 2.95%.
- 3.2 The Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Management Committee, at its meeting on 21st March 2017, agreed an uplift of 2.25% to cremation fees and other fees and charges for 2017/18.
- 3.3 There is currently a consistent schedule of fees and charges across Llwydcoed and Glyntaff Crematorium. This was applied on the basis that the operational management arrangements across both facilities are the same and the services provided across both facilities are the same. Therefore it would be inequitable to have different fees & charges.
- 3.4 This decision was applied from 1st April 2014 and a consistent set of fees and charges has been in place since. To maintain this consistent position the Joint

Management Committee will need to consider applying the same increase as that applied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

4. PROPOSED FEES & CHARGES FOR 2018/19

- 4.1 It is proposed that to maintain consistency across both facilities, an increase of 2.95% be applied to all fees and charges. The effect of this increase on the principal fees & charges is presented at Table I below.

Table I – Principal Fees & Charges

Service	Existing Fee	Increase	Proposed Fee
Cremation	£670	£20	£690
Purchase of cremated remains plot	£256	£8	£264
Interment in a cremated remains plot	£256	£8	£264

- 4.2 To inform the Committee’s decision a comparison has been undertaken of existing fees and charges applied at other Crematoria. Table II presents a comparison of existing fees and charges.

Table II – Existing Cremation Fees 2017/18

Crematoria	Cremation Fee	Purchase of Plot	Interment Fee
Glyntaff	£670	£256	£256
LLwydcoed	£670	£256	£256
Gwent	£671	£339*	£276*
Thornhill	£540	£290	£240
Coychurch	£636.70	£386.80	£398
Margam	£650	£296**	£271**

*Torfaen County Borough Council

** Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

- 4.3 The proposed increase of 2.95% will add £20 to the existing cremation fee of £670, increasing it to £690. Although this is slightly higher than existing cremation fees at other Council run crematoria in the region, the fees for the purchase of a plot and interment of cremated remains will remain below those of other facilities.
- 4.4 At the time of writing, it was not possible to ascertain what fee increases for 2018/19 are proposed by other local authorities across Wales. Nonetheless, the fee increases proposed in this report are considered reasonable.
- 4.5 The effect of the proposed increase on supplementary fees and charges is presented at Table III.

Table III – Supplementary Fees

Item	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Dedication of rosebush and plaque for 10 year period	£181	£186
Exhumation of cremated remains	£238	£245
Additional Chapel slot	£115	£118
Book of Rem. 2 line	£73	£75
Book of Rem. 5 line	£108	£111
Book of Rem. 8 line	£144	£148
Floral emblem and crest	£115	£118
Rededication of rosebush for 10 year period	£152	£156

- 4.6 In addition to the proposed increase in fees and charges, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has agreed to undertake a 12 month pilot whereby all bereavement fees incurred by the families of deceased veterans resident in Rhondda Cynon Taf be subject to a 25% reduction in recognition of the commitment to their country and the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. This will apply to all veterans who have served their minimum period of service/enlistment or seen active duty. For Members information, no budgetary adjustment is proposed for the 2018/19 financial year with the financial implications being assessed as part of the pilot over the next 12 months. Members of the joint Committee may wish to consider a similar pilot at LLwydcoed Crematorium.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The harmonisation of operational and management practices across Llwydcoed Crematorium and the Council's Bereavement Services has established a consistent schedule of fees and charges. This was achieved in 2014/15 by applying the proposed annual uplift consistently to both services and by harmonising supplementary fees.
- 5.2 To maintain this position it is proposed that an increase be applied to fees and charges at Llwydcoed that is consistent with the uplift to Bereavement Services fees and charges being applied by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council from 1st April 2018.
- 5.3 The adoption of a reduction in fees and charges for armed forces veterans would reflect both Councils commitment to supporting the armed forces through the Armed Forces Covenant. A 12 month pilot would enable to financial implications to be quantified.

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