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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3 May 2018</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Acting Head of Environmental and Commercial Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>ERC/ENV/WR/17.331</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Willie Rennie</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>714761</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Simple Funeral Services</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request approval to offer an additional facility at Greenock Crematorium, namely a new service referred to as a simple funeral.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Funeral directors recently introduced a new service called simple funerals which involves the deceased being taken to the crematorium in the usual manner, but no committal service takes place.
- 2.2 Simple funerals are carried out at the request of bereaved families and based on the wishes of the deceased person.
- 2.3 In many cases, a service is conducted at a funeral parlour and thereafter the coffin is taken to the crematorium by the funeral director at a time pre-arranged with the crematorium. Family members or other mourners do not attend at the crematorium. Once standard checks are carried out, the coffin is removed from the hearse and carried to the chapel catafalque in a dignified manner. This method complies with the Code of Cremation Practice on receiving a body into the crematorium.
- 2.4 Local funeral directors currently travel outwith the Inverclyde area to crematoria that provide this service.
- 2.5 There is scope to provide a simple funeral service in Greenock Crematorium on week days Monday through Friday at 8.15am and 8.30am. The times set aside will have no impact on the routine 7 services that are already carried out on a daily basis at Greenock Crematorium.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the proposal to provide simple funerals at Greenock Crematorium.
- 3.2 That the Committee approve that a fee of £375.00 will be charged for this service which includes the Environmental surcharge levy.

**Willie Rennie**  
**Acting Head of Environmental & Commercial Services**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Cremation is not a statutory obligation on local authorities. However, Inverclyde Council carries out its functions as a cremation authority in terms of the statutory powers and duties available to it.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council operates one crematorium, Greenock Crematorium, which carries out around 1,000 cremations per annum utilising two cremators.
- 4.3 It should also be noted that 20%-25% of the 1,000 cremations carried out at Greenock Crematorium relate to residents from outwith Inverclyde, which is a positive statistic in that it aids the viability of the crematorium.
- 4.4 The same formal procedures have to be followed with a Simple Funeral as with a standard cremation. All relevant documentation must be completed and registered; each coffin identified by a name plate and an identity card will follow the coffin and remains throughout the cremation process. In Greenock Crematorium, all cremations are carried out on the same day as the coffin is received. The Code of Cremation Practice allows for individual cremations only, so cremators accommodate only one coffin at a time.
- 4.5 At the outset, it is anticipated that requests for simple funerals will be minimal, possibly one per month, however numbers will likely increase in future.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

#### 5.1 Financial Implications

A fee of £375.00 is proposed for a simple funeral, this is in line with what other similar establishments charge. As uptake of this service is expected to be minimal, all additional costs and income will be contained within existing budget lines.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend £	Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

#### 5.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### 5.3 Human Resources

There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

#### **5.4 Equalities**

There are no equality issues arising from this report.

#### **5.5 Repopulation**

There are no repopulation issues arising from this report.

### **6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.