
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration Committee	Date:	12 January 2017
Report By:	Head of Environmental and Commercial Services	Report No:	ERC/ENV/RG/16.296
Contact Officer:	Willie Rennie	Contact No:	714761
Subject:	Cremator Replacement		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to plan for and commence the replacement of cremators within Greenock Crematorium.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Cremation of the dead 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. If the cremation option were not available in Inverclyde, then many more bereaved families would opt to use the burial service instead, which would be a far more expensive option both for the Council and families.
- 2.2 Greenock Crematorium has two cremators and one cremulator, and carries out approximately 1,000 cremations per year. Circa 20%-25% of cremations are for residents from outside Inverclyde, which is a positive statistic in that it aids the viability of the crematorium.
- 2.3 Greenock Crematorium dates from 1959. Cremators were last replaced in 1995/96 and it was anticipated they would last 20-25 years. The units are therefore 20/21 years old and are in need of replacement.
- 2.4 The replacement project as a whole will be project managed by a company that specialises in this particular field. A procurement exercise will take place in early course to appoint a specialist company to produce a feasibility study as to the most appropriate options for apparatus replacement and associated building works at Greenock Crematorium. The study will include assessment of one off and recurring costs associated with the project, and any potential alternative options for future delivery of cremation provision in Inverclyde.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approve funding of £15k for a feasibility study into the options for the replacement of two cremators at Greenock Crematorium, the scope of the study to include an assessment of one off and recurring costs associated with the project, and any potential alternative options for future delivery of cremation provision.
- 3.2 That the Committee note that on completion of the feasibility study a detailed report outlining the costs, revenue implications and funding routes will be prepared for consideration.

Robert Graham
Head of Environmental & Commercial Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Cremation of the dead 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. If the cremation option were not available in Inverclyde, then many more bereaved families would opt to use the burial service instead.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council operates one crematorium, Greenock Crematorium, which carries out around 1,000 cremations per annum utilising two cremators within Greenock Crematorium. Greenock Crematorium dates from 1959 and although cremation is not a statutory function - not all local authorities provide the service - the cost of providing burial grounds and maintaining them in perpetuity means that the cremation option is both a service to local residents and an appropriate and efficient alternative to providing a much larger and much more expensive burial service.
- 4.3 Cremators were last replaced in 1995/96 and it was anticipated they would last 20-25 years. The units are now less efficient, and in the last few years have needed much more repair and maintenance than had been anticipated. This is a situation that will get worse as the units get older.
- 4.4 In addition to the wear and tear, new equipment has had to be installed and cremators modified to meet more stringent emissions standards as they have been introduced. Cremators that are contemporary are designed to meet these standards without the need for modification.
- 4.5 Although the undernoted fees are not directly relevant to cremator replacement, they are included for information. It should also be noted that 20%-25% of the 1,000 cremations carried out at Greenock Crematorium relate to residents from outwith Inverclyde.

Relevant Fees 2016/17

Crematorium

<u>Children 15 Years and Under</u>	<u>£110.00</u>
<u>All Persons Over 16 Years</u>	<u>£522.00</u>
<u>Saturday/Holiday Surcharge Over 16 Years</u>	<u>£126.50</u>

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The cremators have to be replaced within the next 3 years, but preferably within the next 1-2 years. The planning and procurement process required to install replacements and manage the process with minimal disruption to the service will be time consuming hence the preference to progress the project as soon as it is approved and funding agreed. The project as a whole will be project managed by a company that specialises in this particular field. A procurement exercise will take place in early course to appoint said specialist company.
- 5.2 It is proposed to replace both existing cremators with modern equivalents, and also to replace an ancillary item of equipment, a cremulator, at the same time. Due to the dimensions of the apparatus and the age of the crematory building a significant amount of building work will be necessary. Greenock Crematorium is a listed building, so close liaison with Historic Environment Scotland will be involved. Until such time as a detailed feasibility study is concluded, the exact nature of the building work that will be needed can only be assessed and the likely costs estimated. A neighbouring local authority has just finished the same exercise, and although both projects are not identical, they are similar enough to use as a guide to the process needed to implement the Greenock Crematorium project.
- 5.3 Mercury emissions from crematoria require to be controlled. Crematoria must either abate mercury emissions from 50% of cremations or burden share with other establishments that abate

more than the required 50%. Mercury abatement is achieved by installing specialist apparatus to cremators to remove mercury from vapour produced during cremation. Crematoria that have mercury abatement apparatus installed usually abate at the rate of 100%; crematoria that do not have mercury abatement apparatus fitted may therefore pay a levy that goes towards the cost of installing and maintaining mercury abatement apparatus in crematoria that have it installed. In this way, the overall current government target of abating mercury emissions by 50% is achieved. Inverclyde Council meets the requisite government target by means of burden sharing. The prices set for cremation in Inverclyde (see para 4.5) include a levy to meet the responsibilities of mercury abatement. This arrangement has worked well since introduction in 2012, however the option whether to abate or not will be appraised as part of an initial feasibility study into the range of options and detailed processes involved in the overall project. Government targets for emissions from crematoria are likely to become more stringent over the lifecycle of the proposed new cremators

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications

Modern cremators are more efficient than the current units, so it is anticipated that there will be revenue cost savings in respect of gas usage, and possibly maintenance and repairs costs. Until such time as more information on the characteristics and performance of the replacement units is known, this varies by supplier and model, it is not yet possible to estimate revenue costs.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend £'000	Comments
Capital	Feasibility Studies	2016/17	15	

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
					Subject to pending feasibility study.

Legal

6.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources

6.3 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Equalities

6.4 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

Repopulation

6.5 There are no repopulation issues arising from this report.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Reference to The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 was made in the drafting of the report.

APPENDIX 1
Greenock Crematorium Cremator Replacement Cost Estimate

	£000	
*Supply of two new cremators + mercury abatement equipment	900	
Supply one new cremulator	40	
*Installation and associated building works	400	
**Professional fees external	66	
Professional fees internal	20	
	1,426	
	index	5.0%
	1,497	
#contingency	150	10.0%
	1,647	

- *Cremator Replacement Costs as per tender return 28 Jan 2015, West Dunbartonshire Council.
- ** Professional fees for preparation of tender documents and project management of works.
- # No specific allowance has been made for currency devaluation post Brexit. A large proportion of material will likely be sourced from abroad and/or manufactured there - the leading suppliers of cremators are French and Dutch; also, the crematory building at the Clydebank Crematorium has much easier access than at Greenock, so a 10% contingency has been added.