

11 June 2018

RUGBY AND DAVENTRY CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE – 20 JUNE 2018

A meeting of the Rugby and Daventry Crematorium Joint Committee will be held at 10.00am on Wednesday 20 June 2018 in the Seminar Room at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Adam Norburn
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Chairman – to appoint a Chairman for the 2018/19 municipal year (member of Rugby Borough Council).
2. Appointment of Vice-Chairman – to appoint a Vice-Chairman for the 2018/19 municipal year (member of Daventry District Council).
3. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018.
4. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
5. Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of –

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of a County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

6. 2017/18 Year End Finance report.
7. Funeral poverty.
8. Date of next meeting – please bring diaries to the meeting.

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information to be transacted.

Any additional papers for this meeting can be accessed via the website.

The Reports of Officers (Ref. JCC 2018/19 – 1) are attached.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Mrs Parker and Ms Robbins
Councillors Mrs Lomax and Robertson

Officers:

Dan Green, Lisa Handy, Chris Blundell, Christine Fraser (Rugby Borough Council)
Simon Bowers, Julie Lewis (Daventry District Council)

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Claire Waleczek, Senior Democratic Services Officer (01788 533524) or e-mail claire.waleczek@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

**Report to the Rugby and Daventry Joint Crematorium Committee – 20th
June 2018**

2017/18 Year-End Finance Report

1. Introduction

This report sets out the 2017/18 financial year-end position for both revenue and capital for the Rainsbrook Crematorium, including an explanation of key variances to budget. A detailed breakdown of revenue performance is provided within Appendix 1- Key Performance Indicators.

2. Revenue performance

The table below shows that the Crematorium generated a surplus of £325,100 in 2017/18 and a financial return of £162,550 was distributed to both Daventry District and Rugby Borough councils based on the 50/50 profit share agreement. This contribution represented an additional £28,770 compared to original estimates.

	Budget (£)	Actual (£)	Variance (£)
Total Income	-£813,600	-£821,720	-£8,120
Total Expenditure	£546,040	£496,620	-£49,420
Overall Surplus	-£267,560	-£325,100	-£57,540
Profit share for DDC & RBC	-£133,780	-£162,550	-£28,770

The overall surplus compared to budget arose from reduced expenditure of £19,280 and increased income of £9,180. Explanations for the main variances are shown in Appendix 1, table 1, but significant items of note are:

2.1. Expenditure

Salaries

There was a saving of £19,550 on salaries during 2017/18. This is primarily due to a Crematorium Site Assistant post which was vacant but not filled during the year; this represented a saving of £16,250. This post was removed as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19 and replaced by a part-time administrator post. There was also a saving on overtime costs for 2017/18 as £3,300 of the £5,000 overtime budget was not required.

External Contractors

There was a one-off underspend on cremator maintenance charges due to receiving a credit on our account relating to 2016/17. This resulted in charges for the year of £22,450 representing a saving of £17,550 compared to the original budget of £40,000. There was also an underspend of £4,750 from spending less on general repairs and maintenance than budgeted.

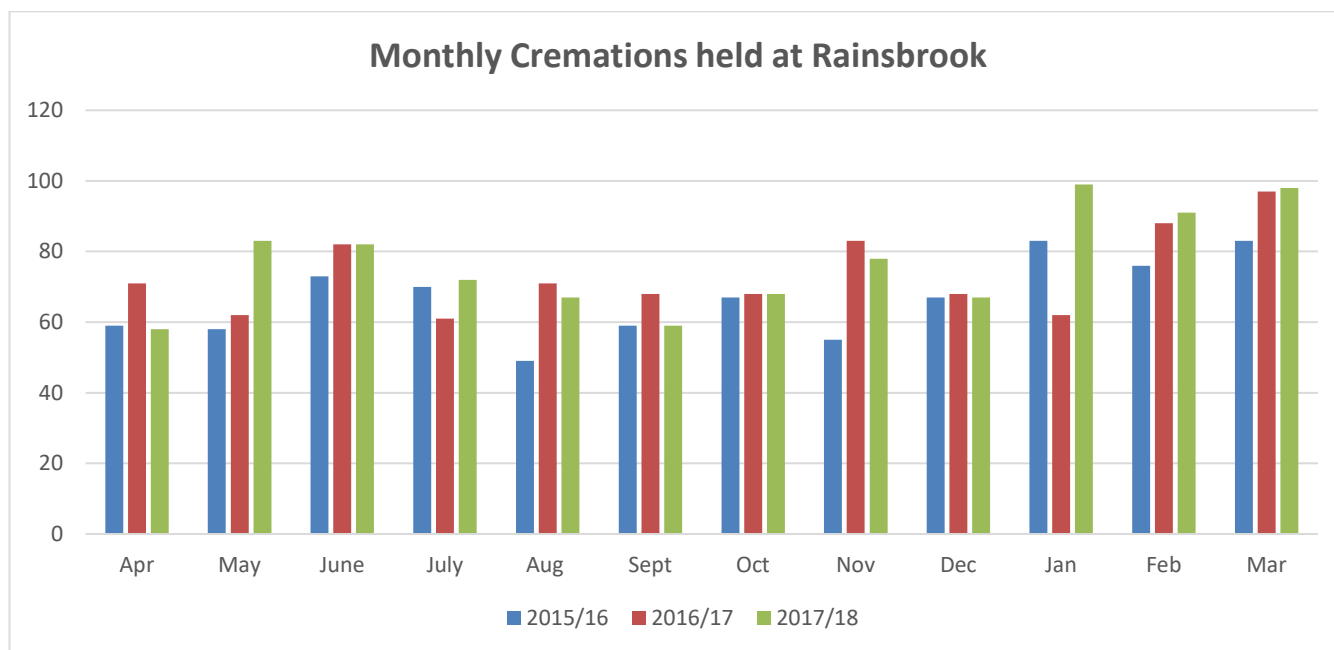
2.2 Income

Cremations

The final amount of income from cremations in 2017/18 was £709,100, an adverse variance of £6,400 compared to the budget. The 2017/18 budget was based upon an estimated 900 full cremations for the year at £795 per cremation. Although the target for the number of cremations was exceeded, as there were 922 cremations in total, 43 of these were 'no service' cremations and are therefore held at reduced charge.

As it was anticipated that the income budget of £715,500 may not be reached for 2017/18, this figure has not been increased as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19. Therefore, in order to reach the £715,500 income budget for 2018/19 this is the equivalent of 896 cremations at the full price of £799. Or if an estimated 5% of the cremations are 'no service', based on the 2017/18 trend, then 865 are required at the 'full service' price, and 45 at the 'no service' price.

The graph below shows the month-by-month cremations conducted at Rainsbrook for the last three financial years.



The total number of cremations has also increased each year, with 799 cremations in 2015/16, 881 cremations in 2016/17 and 922 cremations in 2017/18 as shown in Appendix 1, table 10. Tables 8 and 9 of Appendix 1 also show a comparison between the number of Cremations held at Rainsbrook compared with local death levels for 2017/18 and historically.

Granite Memorial Packages

Income generated from Memorial Packages totalled £74,640, based on 36 packages being sold. This exceeded the expected budget of £60,000. This is due to a combination of reasons including more cremations being carried out, completion of the memorial area and of course personal choice. The budget for 2018/19 has been increased to £84,000, based on 38 packages being sold.

Contributions to Reserves

Cremator Reserve- £10,000 has been put into the Cremator Replacement Reserve, as budgeted, and the closing balance for that reserve for 2017/18 stands at £30,000. The reserve balances can be seen in Appendix 1, table 5.

Cameo Reserve- £4,330 income from the Cameo scheme was received during 2017/18 against an expected income of £5,400. The final amount received depends on a number of factors such as the number of organisations in the scheme, the number of cremations we carry out (payment is received on 50% of the total number of annual cremations) and the amount received per cremation. This £4,330 received from Cameo has been put into the reserve.

It is proposed that £7,495 also be taken out of the reserve to fund bereavement specialist consultancy costs for 2017/18. £4,500 of this was for a review of the market position of the Crematorium and £2,995 for a review of procedures to ensure full compliance with existing and new legislation.

3. 2018/19 Budgets

In conjunction with the normal budget setting process, updated budget proposals were presented to both the Joint Committee and the Joint Board during 2017/18. A copy of the approved budgets for 2018/19 is attached (Appendix 2).

A profit share of £144,270 for both Daventry District and Rugby Borough councils has been budgeted for 2018/19.

4. Crematorium Capital Scheme

	Budget (£)	Actual (£)	Slippage (£)
Total Crematorium budget	£62,420	£1,460	60,960

During 2017/18, £1,460 was spent from the capital budget, with £60,960 remaining. Of this balance, £28,635 is for memorialisation and £32,325 balance of build costs.

It is proposed that this slippage of £60,960 be carried forward to 2018/19 to complete the final payment on the construction scheme to the contractor and continue with the enhancement of the memorialisation areas at the crematorium.

5. Summary

- The overall surplus for Rainsbrook Crematorium for 2017/18 was £325,100, which proved a return of £162,550 each for Rugby Borough and Daventry District councils.
- 2017/18 saw the highest number of Cremations since the Crematorium opened and Rainsbrook is maintaining its share of the local market year-on-year.

6. Recommendation

1. The Committee's year-end position for 2017/18 be considered;
2. the transfer of £4,330 into the Cameo Reserve & £7,495 out of the Cameo Reserve be approved;
3. the transfer of £10,000 into the Cremator Replacement Reserve be approved; and
4. the 2017/18 slippage on the capital scheme be carried forward to 2018/19.

Appendix 1- Crematorium Financial Monitoring & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 2017/18 –March 2018 (Year End)

Table 1- 2017/18 Budget Monitoring

	Year-End Variance
	£
Expenditure	
Salaries – Unused overtime budget (£3k) and a vacant post (£16k)	-19,550
External Contractors - Cremator maintenance charges have been lower than anticipated by £13k for 2017/18 only, due to a previous credit on the account. £3k overspend on music system offset by £10k underspend on Repairs & Maint.	-21,930
Utilities – £4k overspend on electric and water, offset by £12k saving on gas.	-8,630
Consultancy Costs – A review of procedures at Rainsbrook Crematorium, totalling £7,500; it is proposed that this be funded from the Cameo reserve.	0
Payments to DDC – The total payment to Daventry DC for 2017/18 has been calculated as £162,550 following expenditure savings plus an overachievement of income compared to budget.	+28,770
Other small variances	+2,060
Subtotal	-19,280
Income	
Cremations – 922 cremations carried out in total for 2017/18. 879 of these are full service and 43 no service. Although the number of Cremations has been exceeded, the income budget has been underachieved by £6,400 as some of the Cremations are no service for which the charge is lower.	+6,400
Granite Memorial Packages –Sales have done well & exceeded the budget	-14,640
Memorial Sales - Some items have not reached the budgeted income such as Barbican Plaque, Boulder Plaque and Pond Marker. However, some other items have exceeded the budgeted income.	+8,530
Use of Chapel – Greater than expected demand for use of the Chapel	-9,190
Other small variances	-290
Subtotal	-9,190
TOTAL	-28,470

Table 2- Customer Satisfaction/Feedback (March 2018)

Aspect/Category	No. of responses	Average Score
Overall Experience	20	Excellent
Length of Service	20	Excellent
Quality of Music	20	Excellent
Cleanliness	20	Excellent
Memorial Garden	20	Excellent
Road signs	20	Satisfactory
Website	20	Excellent

Table 3-Total Income Analysis – 2017/18

	2017/18		£		Budgeted Income 2018/19	
	Budget Sales	Actual Sales	Budget Income	Actual Income	2018/19 Budget Sales	£ Budget Income
Cremations	900	879	-715,500	-709,100	896	-715,500
Cremations – No Service		43				
Granite Memorial Package – Memorial	30	36	-30,000	-37,320	38	-42,000
Granite Memorial Package – Plot	30	36	-30,000	-37,320	38	-42,000
Armed Forces Memorial Plaque	5	8	-1,250	-1,670	6	-1,250
Barbican – Memorial Plaque	4	0	-1,750	0	6	-1,750
Book of Remembrance*			-3,000	-2,380		-3,000
Boulder – Memorial Plaque	14	3	-5,750	-1,310	12	-5,750
Memorial DVD	10	6	-500	-320	10	-500
Memorial Bench Plaque	8	2	-2,400	-710	12	-2,500
Memorial Jewellery*			-4,200	-3,630		-4,200
Memorial Tree Plaques	8	30	-3,000	-9,210	15	-4,940
Pond Marker	6	0	-2,100	0	6	-2,100
Tree of Life Plaque	18	8	-6,750	-3,000	15	-5,630
Use of Chapels*			-800	-9,190		-800
Memorial Webcast Viewing	12	20	-900	-1,500	12	-900
Caskets/Urns/Tubes Sales*			-300	-320		-300
Total Income			-808,200	-816,980		-833,120

* budgets set against values rather than number of sales due to various combinations of goods or service available

4. Average Memorial Income per Cremation

£816,980 (total income) less £709,100 (cremation income)/ 922 (number of cremations) = **£117 per cremation**

Table 5- Reserve Balances

Reserve	Opening Balance 17/18	Transfers in to reserve 17/18	Transfers out of reserve 17/18	Closing Balance to carry forward to 18/19
Cremator Replacement	-20,000	-10,000	0	-30,000
CAMEO	-11,769	-4,328	+7,495	-8,602

Table 6- Emissions - Carbon Monoxide Equivalent and Particulates

Month	Exceeded/Not Exceeded
April 17- March 18	Not Exceeded

Appendix 1- Crematorium Financial Monitoring & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 2017/18 –March 2018 (Year End)

Table 7- Health and Safety

Reported Incidents during 2017/18		RIDDOR Incidents		Pollution Incidents	
To Date	Cremator Operative tripped in the Crematorium. Corporate Property have now resolved the issue December 17: -Mourner had seizure in waiting room. -Member of staff wrote-off car due to skidding in icy car park due to non-gritting. -Member of staff slipped on ice and hurt back due to non-gritting. -Mourner slipped on ice due to non-gritting.	To Date	NIL	To Date	NIL

11. Monthly Cremations

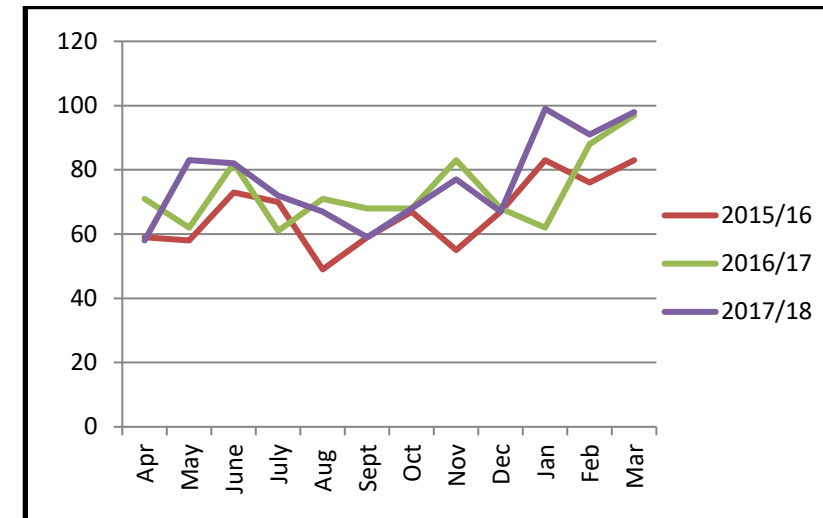


Table 8- Number of Cremations at Rainsbrook vs number of Local Deaths

	Local Deaths	Cremations at Rainsbrook	% held at Rainsbrook
April	133	58	43.6%
May	140	83	59.3%
June	132	82	62.1%
July	115	72	62.6%
August	126	67	53.2%
September	125	59	47.2%
October	139	68	48.9%
November	148	78	53.0%
December	161	67	41.6%
January	216	99	45.8%
February	170	91	53.5%
March	162	98	60.5%
Average			52.6%

12. Cumulative Cremations

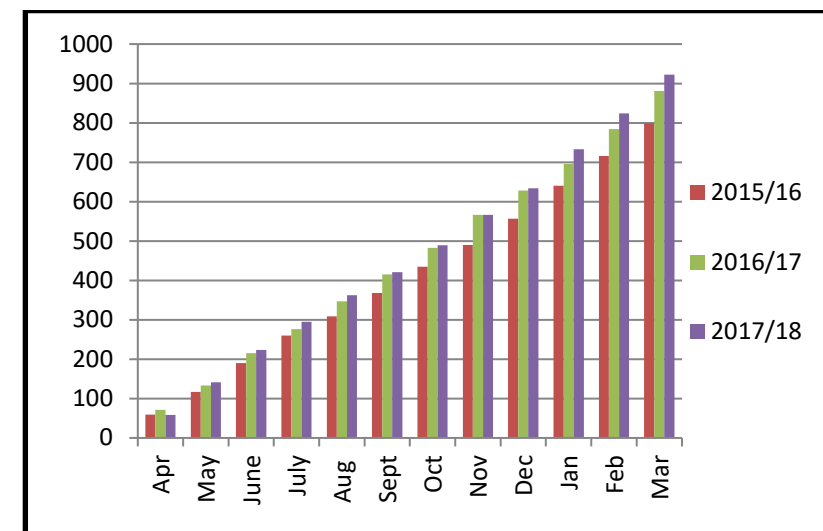


Table 9- Local Market

Annual ave. % of Local Market	
2015/16	49.6%
2016/17	52.6%
2017/18	52.6%

Table 10- Cremations

No. of Cremations at Rainsbrook	
2015/16	799
2016/17	881
2017/18	922

APPENDIX 2: CREMATORIUM

HEAD OF SERVICE:

D. GREEN

		ORIGINAL BUDGET 2017/18 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2018/19 £
CRM00			
	EXPENDITURE:-		
0000	- SALARIES	174,630	196,240
0011	- TRAINING FEES	1,000	1,000
0017	- PROFESSIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	240	270
0019	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE	620	620
	EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	<u>176,490</u>	<u>198,130</u>
0100	CREM REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - CREMATORS	40,000	40,000
0100	BIER REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - WHEEL BIERS	400	400
0100	MUSC REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - MUSIC SYSTEM	5,250	5,250
0100	GENR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - BUILDING	20,000	0
0100	CRTN REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE - COMMITAL CURTAINS	1,250	1,250
0101	- R & M INTERNAL CONTRACTORS	0	20,000
0130	- ELECTRICITY	12,000	12,000
0131	- GAS	25,000	20,000
0141	- RATES	16,920	15,830
0143	- WATER	2,000	2,000
0170	CRM CONTRACT CLEANING	10,300	10,300
0171	- CLEANING MATERIALS	500	500
0174	CRM CLEANING OF PATHS / CAR PARK	2,000	2,000
0180	- PROPERTY INSURANCE	2,120	2,120
	PROPERTY EXPENSES	<u>137,740</u>	<u>131,650</u>
0200	VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	0	4,090
0201	VEHICLE RUNNING COSTS	0	4,000
0202	CAR ALLOWANCE COSTS	290	1,480
0220	CONTRACT HIRE	0	0
	VEHICLE EXPENDITURE	<u>290</u>	<u>9,570</u>
0300	- NEW EQUIPMENT	1,500	1,500
0301	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	500	0
0303	- MATERIALS	1,000	1,500
0305	ARM ARMED FORCES PLAQUE	500	500
0305	BARB MEMORIAL PLAQUE - BARBICAN	400	400
0305	BIOB BIOBOXES	3,000	3,000
0305	BOR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE	2,000	2,000
0305	BOULD PATH BOULDER PLAQUE	1,000	1,000
0305	CASK CASKETS / URNS / TUBES	1,000	1,000
0305	DVD DVD	300	300
0305	FLOR FLORAL DISPLAYS	500	0
0305	MBEN MEMORIAL BENCH PLAQUES	520	700
0305	MJLL MEMORIAL JEWELLERY	3,000	3,000
0305	MTAB GRANITE MEMORIAL TABLETS	16,800	18,380
0305	MTRE MEMORIAL TREE PLAQUES	520	1,050
0305	KERB KERB PLAQUE (WAS POND MARKER)	300	300
0305	TOL TREE OF LIFE PLAQUE	1,500	2,600
0305	WCAST WEBCAST VIEWING	540	540
0306	- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	500	500
0331	HOSPITALITY	600	600
0341	- UNIFORMS	500	1,400
0350	- STATIONERY SUPPLIES	610	610

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM: CREMATORIUM

HEAD OF SERVICE:

D. GREEN

CRM00	EXPENDITURE:-	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2017/18 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2018/19 £
0370	- POSTAGES	600	600
0371	MOB TELEPHONE EXPENSES	100	100
0371	LAND IT LINE RENTAL / BROADBAND	12,000	12,000
0374	CEM SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	1,500	1,500
0377	- PUBLICITY & MARKETING	2,000	2,000
0413	- MEDICAL REFEREES FEES	16,650	16,650
0414	- ORGANIST FEES	19,000	19,000
0421	- SUBSCRIPTIONS	0	320
0440	- GENERAL INSURANCES	520	520
0444	PCP POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT	1,500	1,000
0447	- SPECIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES	1,500	1,500
0448	- ASSET MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	100	100
	GENERAL RUNNING EXPENSES	<u>92,560</u>	<u>96,170</u>
0710	DDC PROFIT SHARE PAYMENT TO DAVENTRY	133,780	144,270
0742	EMIS EMISSIONS TESTING	2,500	2,500
0742	OTHR OTHER EXTERNAL CONTRACTORS	400	3,550
0742	SUBC SUBCONTRACTOR	0	7,000
0743	GRDS GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - WSU GARDENER	29,540	0
0743	IMP GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS - WSU AD HOC	1,000	1,000
0743	TREE TREE SURGERY - WSU	4,000	4,000
0743	WSTE WASTE COLLECTION	900	900
	OTHER RUNNING EXPENSES	<u>172,120</u>	<u>163,220</u>
	EXPENDITURE	<u>578,910</u>	<u>598,740</u>
	LESS INCOME:-		
1100	CONT CONTRIBUTIONS & DONATIONS - CAMEO SCHEME	-5,400	-5,400
1200	CASK CASKETS / URNS / TUBES SALES	-300	-300
1400	ARM ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL PLAQUE	-1,250	-1,250
1400	BARB MEMORIAL PLAQUE - BARBICAN	-1,750	-1,750
1400	BOR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE	-3,000	-3,000
1400	BOULD MEMORIAL PLAQUE - BOULDER	-5,750	-5,750
1400	DVD MEMORIAL DVD	-500	-500
1400	MBEN MEMORIAL BENCH PLAQUES	-2,400	-2,500
1400	MJLL MEMORIAL JEWELLERY	-4,200	-4,200
1400	MTRE MEMORIAL TREE PLAQUES	-3,000	-4,940
1400	KERB KERB PLAQUES	-2,100	-2,100
1400	TOL TREE OF LIFE PLAQUE	-6,750	-5,630
1402	CREM CREMATIONS	-715,500	-715,500
1402	CHAP USE OF CHAPELS	-800	-800
1402	MTAB GRANITE MEMORIAL PACKAGE - MEMORIAL	-30,000	-42,000
1402	PLOT GRANITE MEMORIAL PACKAGE - PLOT	-30,000	-42,000
1402	WCAST MEMORIAL WEBCAST VIEWING	-900	-900
	INCOME	<u>-813,600</u>	<u>-838,520</u>
	NET EXPENDITURE (before accounting adjustments)	<u>-234,690</u>	<u>-239,780</u>

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM: CREMATORIUM

HEAD OF SERVICE:

D. GREEN

CRM00

ORIGINAL
BUDGET
2017/18
£ORIGINAL
BUDGET
2018/19
£**ACCOUNTING ADJUSTMENTS:-**

0005	-	IAS19 PENSION ADJUSTMENT *	4,240	4,270
0009	-	APPRENTICESHIP LEVY	870	0
0780	-	INTERNAL RECHARGES **	81,320	78,070
0900	-	CAPITAL CHARGES ***	20,910	20,910
4000		CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES - CAMEO SCHEME	5,400	5,400
4000		CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES - REPLACEMENT	10,000	10,000
			<u>122,740</u>	<u>118,650</u>
		NET EXPENDITURE	<u><u>-111,950</u></u>	<u><u>-121,130</u></u>

* IAS 19 Adjustment - the notional estimated annual amount of what the Council should be paying towards ultimate cost of ex-employee pensions.

** Internal Recharges - overheads charged to front-line services from central services, including office costs such as heating, lighting & management / officer time chargeable to specific services.

*** Capital Charges - the notional charge to reflect the costs of using capital assets.

**Rugby and Daventry Crematorium Joint Committee – 20th June
2018**

Funeral Poverty

1.1 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to advise the joint crematorium committee of the proposals to increase the awareness of funeral poverty and to provide a fair and affordable funeral service.

The average cost of a funeral is currently £3,881 compared to £1,815 in 2005. Costs are expected to continue to rise in the coming years.

Following the death of a loved one, people are naturally deeply distressed. They face making financial decisions about funeral arrangements and may make choices that are not affordable out of respect for the person who has died. People on low incomes are increasingly finding that the death of a loved one plunges them into serious and long-term debt, as they have little or no savings.

Some financial funding for families on low incomes is made by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) but it does not cover the whole funeral cost. Such payments are available to people on certain qualifying benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support.

The council has a statutory duty under the provisions of Section 46 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 to undertake the funeral of a deceased person, who died in the District of Rugby. The deceased may have no known family to pay for the funeral or where no one can or will pay for the funeral. The deceased is given a simple, dignified funeral service, either cremation at Rainsbrook Crematorium or burial in a public grave at Clifton Road cemetery.

Whilst some of these funerals are carried out because the deceased has no living relatives there has been an increase in Public Health funerals being carried out because the family simply cannot afford the funeral after being given an estimate by a funeral director. Unfortunately, many families want to avoid the stigma attached to Public Health funerals, hence ending up in debt to pay for what they consider to be a 'decent' funeral.

Rainsbrook Crematorium prides itself on its provision of such funerals, taking the utmost care and respect for the deceased. These funerals come at a cost to the Council when the deceased has no funds to pay for them. Even when money is recovered it is often very little and does not cover all costs.

The Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management (ICCM) is actively encouraging local authorities to provide a municipal funeral service and the following local authorities are already providing successful funeral services:

Cardiff
Sandwell
Tameside
North East Lincs
Luton
East Ayrshire
London Borough of Hounslow
St Helens
Wigan & Leigh
Bury

Councils have created residents' funerals in an effort to tackle funeral poverty. They have generally done so via a third-party provider (a funeral director) who has been appointed to operate the service following competitive tender. The residents' funerals provide a dignified and reasonable cost alternative to what is offered in the marketplace.

The councils who have introduced residents' funerals have done so as they consider that access to a dignified funeral service, without getting into crippling debt, is a basic human right. It is unacceptable that a bereaved family, trying to come to terms with the loss of a loved one, should go through the stress of worrying about how they can afford to pay for a funeral. Many people end up with expensive credit card or payday loan debts, or need to borrow from friends or apply to charities to pay for the funeral.

The Wigan Council residents' funeral has been the most successful. The current cost of a Wigan Residents Funeral is £1,892.83 for a cremation and £1,938.83 for a burial, making them almost 50% cheaper than the average cost of a funeral. Figures for the last three years are detailed below:

Year 1

16 burials carried out, saving residents a total of £24,960.00
38 cremations carried out, saving residents a total of £61,142.00

Year 2

13 burials carried out, saving residents £28,433.21
109 cremations carried out, saving residents £154,362.53

Year 3

33 burials carried out, saving residents £69,477.44
135 cremations carried out, saving residents £189,159.95

Wigan has also increased its own revenue as funerals that had once gone to a private crematorium are now coming to them.

1.2 Rainsbrook Funeral Service

The Bereavement Services team based at Rainsbrook Crematorium can develop a selection of simple low-cost cremation and burial options that have transparent pricing and clarity of service. It could offer a choice of two or three high quality value for money options delivered to the highest standard by an experienced team using professional funeral directors.

Officers consider that the development of this service could enable a range of simple cremations and burials which are up to £4000 cheaper than traditional funeral costs. This is because unneeded cost could be cut out without reducing the unrivalled service and facility quality. Hidden charges would be avoided and not be motivated to 'up sell' unnecessary extras. Rainsbrook's prices would be transparent and therefore guaranteed. A clear menu of priced options for enhanced services could be offered if desired.

The Rainsbrook Funeral service would offer a low cost all-inclusive package which is dignified and professional but also affordable and covers the cremation cost. This service would be available to all residents of Rugby and Daventry.

The service would include:

- Collection of the deceased
- Light oak or dark oak veneered coffin, furnishings and fittings.
- Preparation and dressing of deceased
- Viewing in Chapel of Rest
- Hearse and bearers
- A dignified funeral service
- Cremation or interment fee
- Doctors statutory fee (cremation only)
- Officiants fee
- Advice and support

1.3 Direct cremation/burial

Direct cremation or burial is a simple dignified option, perfect for those who wish to commemorate their loved one in their own way. Aside from the obvious savings, this direct service offers the family more flexibility, allowing the family to pay a fair price for the services that are needed whilst avoiding costs for services that are not appropriate.

Many families want to hold their own private ceremonies or purchase a memorial and they can use the savings to do so. For others it is the wish of the deceased to hold a no-fuss service. Sometimes it is just difficult to gather all those who wish to attend at a specific location at a fixed time. A direct funeral is also perfect for individuals who have no close family or haven't made financial provision in their will.

1.4 Full service cremation/burial

Cremation or burial with a funeral service is the most popular form of service. An attended service is provided and takes place prior to the cremation or burial. The service can be religious or non-religious and Bereavement Services can arrange

this. This is an affordable service that offers unrivalled levels of quality held at Rainsbrook Crematorium followed by cremation or burial.

This service offers fixed costs which include all fees and disbursements plus options to allow personal touches to meet the family's needs.

There are no negative financial implications for the council. It is possible that additional revenue could be generated.

1.5 Recommendation

A complete specification to allow funeral directors to tender for the delivery of the service be prepared.