

## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE**

**16<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

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

##### **CREMATION & SUPPLEMENTARY FEES AND CHARGES 2021/22**

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#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To set the fees & charges for 2021/22 effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that this be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021:

- Consider and approve the levels for cremation and all supplementary fees and charges detailed at section 4.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Cabinet meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 agreed revised levels of fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year and for these to be built into the 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy to be recommended to full Council on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The revisions to fees and charges included a freeze on all cremation and supplementary fees.

3.2 The Joint Committee will be aware that there is currently a consistent schedule of fees and charges across Llwydcoed and Glyntaff Crematoria, this being in place from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

3.3 The Joint Committee will also be aware that the consistent schedule was introduced on the basis that the operational management arrangements and services provided at both facilities are the same and as such it would be inequitable to have different fees & charges.

#### 4. **PROPOSED FEES & CHARGES FOR 2021/22**

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

**Table I – Principal Fees & Charges**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Existing Fee</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Cremation	£721	£0	£721
Purchase of cremated remains plot	£276	£0	£276
Interment in a cremated remains plot	£276	£0	£276

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

**Table II – Existing Cremation Fees 2020/21**

<b>Crematorium</b>	<b>Current cremation fee</b>	<b>Current purchase of plot fee</b>	<b>Current interment in plot fee</b>
Bridgend	£697.70	£418.97	£127.23
Cardiff	£700.00	£370.00	£320.00
Margam	£617.00	(included in cremation fee)	£62.00
Gwent	£828.00	(included in cremation fee)	£90.00 cremation plot £1463.00 in vault
Glyntaff/Llwydcoed	£721.00	£276.00	£276.00

- 4.3 At the time of writing, it was not possible to ascertain what fee increases for 2021-22 are proposed by other local authorities across Wales.
- 4.4 In addition to the above, during the past year a pilot has been in place to apply a reduced cremation fee of £568 for funeral directors offering a direct cremation<sup>1</sup>. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC are currently finalising a review of the pilot and level of charge for the forthcoming financial year, and will update the Joint Committee to enable this to be implemented at Llwydcoed Crematorium in line with the arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

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<sup>1</sup> Direct Cremation – A “direct”, “simplicity” cremation or “cremation without ceremony” is where a funeral director arranges a service with no mourners and brings the deceased directly to the crematorium with no religious service or attendees. The fees and charges to the family of the deceased are significantly reduced making the service more affordable, particularly for those on low incomes.

- 4.5 With regard to supplementary fees and charges, the proposed levels for the 2021/22 financial year are set out at Table III.

**Table III – Supplementary Fees**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Existing Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Dedication of rosebush and plaque for 10 year period	£194	£194
Exhumation of cremated remains	£256	£256
Additional Chapel slot	£123	£123
Book of Rem. 2 line	£78	£78
Book of Rem. 5 line	£116	£116
Book of Rem. 8 line	£154	£154
Floral emblem and crest	£123	£123

- 4.6 Lastly, Welsh Government has confirmed that for the next 3 financial years, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, additional funding will continue to be provided to enable Burial authorities in Wales to waive any fees in relation to the standard burial or cremation of a child, defined for these purposes as a person under the age of 18. For Joint Committee's information, arrangements are being put in place to apply these arrangements at Llwydcoed Crematorium from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

## **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 being in place from 2014/15..
- 5.2 To maintain this position it is proposed that a freeze be applied to fees and charges at Llwydcoed Crematorium that is consistent with the freeze to Bereavement Services fees and charges as set out in Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's 2021/22 Revenue Budget Strategy to be recommended to the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 full Council meeting.