

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DISCUSSION PAPER FOR LLWYDCOED CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

21st March 2017

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH & PROTECTION

**CREMATION & SUPPLEMENTARY FEES AND CHARGES
2017-18**

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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To set the fees & charges for 2017/18, including the annual uplift effective from 1st April 2017.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that with effect from 1st April 2017:

a) Cremation and all supplementary fees and charges are increased by 2.25%

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Cabinet agreed the annual increase to fees and charges for 2017/18 at its meeting on the 9th February 2017. This included an increase to all bereavement fees of 2.25%.

3.2 The Llwydcoed Crematorium Joint Management Committee, at its meeting on 22nd March 2016, agreed an uplift of 4.7% to cremation fees and 11.2% for all other fees and charges for 2016/17. This differential increase reflected the need to rebalance the fees and charges as the supplementary fees and charges were relatively low when compared to those in other local authorities.

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.

3.3 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 2017/18

- 4.1 It is proposed that to maintain consistency across both facilities, an increase of 2.25% 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	£655	£15	£670
Purchase of cremated remains plot	£250	£6	£256
Interment in a cremated remains plot	£250	£6	£256

- 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 2016/17

Crematorium	Cremation Fee	New Cremation Plot	Interment of Cremated remains
Llwydcoed	£655	£250	£250
Bridgend	£623	£397	£387
Cardiff	£530	£280	£230
Vale of Glamorgan*	£735	N/A	N/A
Gwent	£585	N/A	N/A

*privately run facility

- 4.3 The proposed increase of 2.25% will add £15 to the existing cremation fee of £655, increasing it to £670. Although this is slightly higher than 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 2017/18 are proposed by other local authorities across Wales. Nonetheless, the fee increases proposed in this report are considered reasonable and, if approved, will maintain a comparable position with other local authorities.
- 4.5 The effect of the proposed increase on supplementary fees and charges is presented at Table III.

Table III

Item	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Dedication of rosebush and plaque for 10 year period	£177	£181
Exhumation of cremated remains	£233	£238
Additional Chapel slot	£112	£115
Book of Rem. 2 line	£71	£73
Book of Rem. 5 line	£106	£108
Book of Rem. 8 line	£141	£144
Floral emblem and crest	£112	£115
Rededication of rosebush for 10 year period	£149	£152

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. 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 2017.