

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Report

Subject : Change to Reception (Direct Cremation) Fee
Committee : Finance & Governance Committee
Date : 18 July 2022
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1. Introduction:

1.1. This paper proposes a revised fee for the Reception (Direct) Cremation service at Salisbury Crematorium.

2. Background:

- 2.1. The Crematorium's core service is the full standard service, and in 2021/22 Salisbury City Council (SCC) delivered 928 of this type of cremation service.
- 2.2. However, when there is space in the diary, SCC also provides a Reception or Direct cremation service. This is a cremation with no funeral service, no ceremony performed beforehand, and no family or friends in attendance. The ashes are returned to the family after the cremation for their consideration. In 2021/22 SCC delivered 292 of this type of service.
- 2.3. The 2022/23 fee for Reception (Direct Cremation) is currently £590.00

3. Local Crematoria and Direct Cremation Fee:

- 3.1. Romsey, West Wiltshire and Andover Crematoria charge £250 for a Direct Cremation/Reception service.
- 3.2. Funeral Directors Chris White in Wilton & Salisbury, F. Curtis at Warminster and L. C. Hill from Mere, who are all managed by 'Funeral Partners', are now going to Westerleigh Crematoria at Romsey or West Wiltshire for Receptions/Direct Cremations.
- 3.3. Just Cremation who were one of SCC's main users for direct cremations have recently closed their offices in Salisbury due to the death of the owner.
- 3.4. In order to encourage local funeral directors to use Salisbury Crematorium for direct cremation it is proposed to lower the cost of SCC Reception/Direct cremations to be more competitive in the local market.
- 3.5. It therefore proposed that the fee for Reception/Direct cremations, previously set during the budget in January 2022, is revised from £590 to £400.
- 3.6. At the end of Quarter 1, the Crematorium is on target for its income target and the lowering of the direct cremation fee could offset a greater loss of income if additional funeral directors choose to use other cremation for direct cremations.

4. Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- 4.1. That the Committee agree to reduce the Reception/Direct Cremation fee from £590 to £400 from 1 October 2022.

5. Implications:

- 5.1. **Financial:** As outlined in the report.
- 5.2. **Legal:** None in relation to this report
- 5.3. **Personnel:** None in relation to this report
- 5.4. **Environmental Impact:** None in relation to this report
- 5.5. **Equality Impact:** None in relation to this report