

Agenda



Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee

Date: Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Time: 12.00 pm

To: Councillors Y Forsey, L Lacey, Lane, Thomas, S Evans, Leadbeater, J Simmonds, J Taylor and Cross

Item		Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>	
3	<u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u> (Pages 3 - 6)	
4	<u>Review of Fees and Budget Proposals 2024</u> (Pages 7 - 18)	
5	<u>Community Energy: Solar PV at Gwent Crematorium</u> Verbal update	
6	<u>Facilities Management</u> To receive an oral update from the Newport Norse representative	
7	<u>Funeral Director's Report</u> To consider any issues raised by local Funeral Directors	
8	<u>Manager's Report</u> (Pages 19 - 20)	
9	<u>Part 2 Exempt or Confidential Items</u> Part 2: Not for publication as consideration of the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.	
10	<u>Cremator Replacement Proposal</u> (Pages 21 - 44)	

Contact: Taylor Strange (Governance Officer)
Tel: 01633 656656
E-mail: Democratic.Services@Newport.Gov.uk
Date of Issue: 26 January 2024

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes



Greater Gwent Cremation Joint Committee

Date: 18 October 2023

Time: 12pm

Present: Councillors Y. Forsey (Chair), L. Lacey (NCC), M. Lane (Monmouthshire), Elizabeth Bryant (Head of Law and Standards), Phillip Toms, Joanne Hazelwood (Finance Business Partner - Systems with Finance IT Project responsibilities), Joanne Gossage (The Service Manager Environment & Leisure) Karl Donovan (Newport Norse), Meirion Rushworth (Head of Finance), Councillor J Taylor (Caerphilly). Taylor Strange (Governance Officer),

Apologies: S Evans, J Simmonds J Taylor

1. Declaration of Interest

N/A

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on the 24.05.23.

The minutes of the previous meeting were held as a true record.

3. Review of Budget Performance 2023/24

The Finance Business Partner Systems with Finance IT Project responsibilities presented the report.

Key Points

The Crematorium financial position has been impacted by the building works.

The budget needs to be signed off as well as the approval of the restated annual return.

The Temporary issues are a major reason for the overspend budget.

The overspend required more use of reserves, this would need to be reviewed and approved.

There had been an increased cost in relation to the cremator however provisions in budget were being looked at in order to create an allocation specifically for repairs.

Burial memorials have been purchased in bulk but over the last few years this had been reduced.

£172,000 less income was expected which was linked to the building repairs which had impacted morning time slots before 11:30am.

Councillor Forsey highlighted that the building works had a bigger impact than previously thought.

- The Service Manager Environment and Leisure noted time slots up to 11:30am had been lost.
- K Donovan, Newport Norse, noted the works are expected to be dealt with on the 27 October 2023.

Audit Wales noted an error in the annual return which showed it was overstated by £120,000.

The refurbishing works would be continued to be monitored.

The Committee was asked to note the financial position of this year and approve the annual return.

The Head of Finance highlighted the importance of the reserve reduction due to the error and the noted overspend.

Councillor Forsey wanted reassurances that the error would not happen again.

- The Finance Business Partner Systems with Finance IT Project responsibilities highlighted that it was human error that made the mistake, but processes were put in place to mitigate any future issues.

Councillor Tudor noted once all works are done would this improve the budget position. The Finance Business Partner Systems with Finance IT Project responsibilities highlighted the budget has taken this into account.

Resolved:

The Committee noted the financial statement and signed off the reserve.

4. Community Energy: Solar PV at Gwent Crematorium

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure gave an overview of the report.

The purpose of the report was to construct a solar panel array which noted a £900 saving on energy per year and a reduction of 9 tons of carbon.

The project would be funded through the grant aid system.

The company in charge of installing the panels, would provide all maintenance for the lease of 21 years at which point the deal could be renegotiated.

M Ryan Funeral Association queried when the works would take place.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure would look into this.

The Head of Finance was not aware of the cost of the panels; therefore, the officers could not advise the Committee actions to take.

The Head of Finance also queried what would occur should the council not be able to fulfil their requirements.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure highlighted that option 3, following the 21 years, the panels could be removed at no cost to the councils.

The Head of Law and Standards queried what would happen if the company folded. She also asked could the roof space be maintained should any further work need to be undertaken. Finally, the Head of Law and Standards queried whether there was a lawful Planning Development Certificate in place.

This information would be available at a future meeting.

The Committee would like the report to reflect that the work undertaken be subject to minimal disruption.

- The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure detailed ways in which to minimally impact the workings of the crematorium.
- The Carbon Reduction Project Officer noted the works would be done as soon as possible but the restrictions would have to be factored into this.

Councillor Forsey asked if the Committee were content to approve based on the conditions proposed.

These conditions included more information on any outcomes should the provider company fold, the ability to access the roof space for maintenance, information on the Planning Development Certificate as well the issues raised by the Head of Finance.

Resolved:

The Committee were content that based on the conditions proposed the installation of 33.75 kWp solar panel array at Gwent Crematorium could proceed.

5. Facilities Management

K Donovan, Newport Norse, presented this item.

K Donovan, Newport Norse noted the works due to be completed by 27 October and also highlighted other sections of work that was ongoing such as the roof taking roughly eight weeks.

The Chair asked whether Norse carried out inspections on works already completed.

- K Donovan, Newport Norse, noted that they did not carry out inspections specifically but did highlight that any issues spotted could be reported and then dealt with.

6. Funeral Director's Report

M Ryan Funeral Directors, Funeral Association presented this item.

M Ryan Funeral Directors, Funeral Association gave thanks to the builders on the works already completed.

M Ryan Funeral Directors, Funeral Association would like the chapel looked at, in addition to the roof panels to see if there were any issues.

- The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure highlighted that a report had been conducted on the roof and a leak had been found which was currently being addressed.

- K Donovan noted that Egni Coop should conduct a report on the roof to see whether it is structurally viable to house the solar panels.

M Ryan Funeral Directors, Funeral Association, queried when the new staff would be employed in order to fill the current vacancies.

- The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure noted this would be covered in the following agenda item.

7. Manager's Report

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure presented this item.

Key Points

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure noted that the year had seen a decrease in bookings.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure noted three positions that were lost due to retirement and asked if the Committee would like to give thanks to the retired officers for their hard work.

The Committee wanted it noted that they passed on their thanks to the retired officers.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure advised that a new deputy manager and cremator operator had been appointed and the remaining administrative staff vacancies would be advertised.

K Donovan, Newport Norse advised that full services should be back in order by 22 October.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure mentioned that there had been two car collisions into the pillars near the funeral directors' office and public car park.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure explained that Cremators 3 and 4 were serviced recently but noted there was an issue with the filtration system in the other cremators.

The Service Manager for Environment and Leisure informed the Committee that they were consulting closing services on dates within the Christmas Period.

8. Part 2 confidential

Not for publication as consideration of the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

9. Equipment Update

Resolved:

The Committee considered the information provided as a first stage review.

The Committee understood and noted the issues and the options available and that officers were looking at the financial impacts and would come back in due course for a decision when full financial information was available.



Report

Greater Gwent Crematorium Joint Committee

Part 1

Date: Wednesday 31st January 2024

Subject Budget Proposals and Review of Fees for 2024-25

Purpose To present the draft budget proposals for 2024-25 and associated fee setting.

Author Finance Business Partner - Systems

Ward General

Summary To review and consider the budget proposals for 2024-25, which have been affected by a number of factors, including the cremator replacement, which is to be considered in a separate report

Appendix:

- Appendix 1 Distribution summary 2023-24
- Appendix 2 Fees for consultation 2024-25
- Appendix 3 Draft budget proposals 2024-25

Proposal Members are asked to:

- **Agree a distribution of £250,000 in 2023-24**
- **Agree to use reserves to repay the outstanding loan on the Mercury Abatement equipment in 2023-24**
- **Agree a 10% fee increase in 2024-25**
- **Approve the resulting budget proposals for 2024-25**

Action by Head of Finance

Timetable

1. Any fee increases would be implemented from 1 April 2024
2. Draft budget proposals, and fees and charges to be agreed for 2024-25.

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Head of Finance
- Service Manager for Environment and Leisure
- Head of Law and Regulation
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation

**Signed
Background**

It is necessary for the Joint Committee to set the budget for the coming year. The fee options are detailed within this report (Appendix 2), along with the resulting draft budget proposals for 2024-25 (Appendix 3), which show a planned surplus of £431,585, with no fee increase, £486,461 surplus for a 4% increase, and £568,775 surplus, if the Committee approves a 10% fee increase. All of these figures are prior to any distribution.

Financial Summary 2023-24

At the October meeting, we reported the detailed financial position as at 30 September, along with explanations for variances to budget. We have now revised the figures to 31 December, as shown in summary below

	FY Budget 23/24	Actual to 31 Dec	Forecast 23/24	Variance to Budget
Total INCOME	(1,537,500)	(866,813)	(1,268,000)	269,500
Employees	313,890	304,232	373,947	60,057
Premises	652,259	333,078	583,938	(68,321)
Transport	1,010	0	300	(710)
Supplies & Services	162,329	122,186	191,786	29,457
Capital Financing	67,722	0	265,803	198,081
Total EXPENDITURE	1,197,210	759,496	1,415,774	218,564
(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	(340,290)	(107,317)	147,774	488,064

Potential impact on Reserves at 31st March 2024

Reserves b/f £1,162,806	1,503,096		1,015,032	
Less Suggested Distribution	450,000		250,000	
Reserve balance c/f	1,053,096		765,032	

Income - the position as at the end of December is showing an out-turn forecast of £270k less income than budgeted. The budgeted position was based on 85% of available service times being booked, and the table below highlights that there has been a decrease in cremation numbers due to reduced operating hours as a result of the refurbishment works currently being carried out at the Crematorium.

Most of the works have taken place out of hours, however there has been an impact on the morning services. The works are currently still ongoing and are due to complete by the end of this financial year.

Cremation numbers:	22/23	23/24	Variance
Apr	141	116	-25
May	143	103	-40
Jun	129	121	-8
Jul	122	110	-12
Aug	131	120	-11
Sep	119	111	-8
Oct	132	104	-28
Nov	141	136	-5
Dec	132	115	-17
Jan	142	125	-17
Feb	137	119	-18
Mar	156	137	-19
	1,625	1,417	-208

Employees – the Crematorium has experienced many staffing changes during this financial year, and to maintain service provision, it was necessary to engage agency support, which has been in place since June. This has had a significant impact on the forecasted employee costs outturn, resulting in a projected overspend of £60k. Recruitment is now planned, and the service manager will update the Committee on staffing as part of their manager report.

Premises - the saving on premises is mainly attributable to utilities. As a result of a sharp spike in energy prices, budgets were increased by predicted contract inflationary rates; however expenditure has not met these levels, and budgets are to be adjusted for 2024-25

	Budget	Expenditure Forecast	Variance
Gas	201,594	146,152	55,442
Electricity	90,145	71,431	18,714
	291,739	217,583	74,156

Capital Financing Costs – the forecast for 23-24 assumes that the Committee will agree to repay the outstanding loan on the mercury abatement equipment of £265,803. There are currently 5 years remaining on the loan, and by making a one off repayment, reserve balances will be £1,015,032, prior to any distribution, and annual revenue costs will be reduced by £53,161. This will partly offset the cost of the additional capital financing costs, relating to the cremator replacement, which would start in 2025-26, if approved.

The budget agreed for 2023-24 presumed a £340k surplus and was insufficient to provide a planned dividend of £450k for Gwent partners, without also utilising some of the crematorium reserve balances. The current projections of £148k deficit, indicate that a £450k distribution would require a more significant draw from reserves, reducing levels to £565k. This position supports the advice that from a budget planning point of view, historic distribution levels are no longer sustainable going forward, without expiring the reserve balances; and therefore the recommendation is that the Committee approves a £250,000 distribution in 2023-24.

Review of fees 2024-25

Appendix 2 shows that our current fee of £845, is lower than the average of our geographically nearest competitors, of £927. Cremation numbers have decreased in 2023-24 due to the refurbishment works, which have impacted service provision, however, are expected to increase again in 2024-25.

If the cremator replacement is approved, the installation is not expected to affect service provision, as cremators 3 and 4, will still be in operation.

A 10% fee on adult cremations would increase the fee by £85 to £930, and if cremation numbers are as projected, could generate additional revenue of £137k

2024-25 Budget

An incremental budget setting approach has been adopted, reviewing the traditional budget levels for staff and running costs and factoring in income levels more akin with expectation. Appendix 3 shows the draft budget with three different fee levels. Assuming a fee increase of 10%, income levels are based on 1614 cremations which is 85% maximum cremations (1898) + £180k other income e.g. memorials/inscriptions/rent. These figures have been prepared in conjunction with service colleagues. As the appendix shows, the running costs are consistent under each fee option as they are unaffected by fee levels and the differences in the annual surpluses are purely down to fee levels only.

Even with no fee increase, the 2024-25 draft budget indicates a net surplus of £432k, an increase of £92k on 2023-24 levels. Whilst cost headings have increased due to price/inflation increases, there has been a significant decrease in energy costs estimate and this explains a small increased surplus even with no fee increases / increased costs elsewhere.

The following inflationary factors have been applied, when preparing the draft budget proposals:

Pay = 5%
Refuse Collection = 8.2%
Rates = 5%
Electricity = (-20%)
Gas = (-20%)
Water = 3%
Rent income = 4%

Income – income levels are expected to return to levels more akin with 22-23 cremation numbers, once the refurbishment works have been completed. If the Committee approves the cremator replacement, there is expected to be minimal disruption to service provision, as cremators 3 and 4 will still be operational throughout the installation process.

Premises - as a result of a downward trend in utilities market prices, supply costs are expected to reduce by around 20%, and therefore budgets have been adjusted accordingly.

The introduction of a contribution to the repairs and renewals reserve within the overall premises budget, will help smooth the fluctuating cremator repairs and maintenance costs, we have experienced in recent years. Further work continues to be required on this budget to ascertain a more accurate estimate for the value and the new proposed cremator will impact on this and therefore for now, continuation of the current £100k contribution to that reserve is recommended, starting from 2024-25. This will be reviewed in time for the following year taking into account the impact of the new cremator equipment.

If the Committee approves the recommendation for Cremator replacement, there could be additional savings in both gas usage and cremator repairs and maintenance costs, however, these will not be realised until the new cremator is up and running, which is estimated to be September/October 2024, so any resulting savings will be towards the latter end of 2024-25. The draft budget shown makes the assumption that a new cremator will be approved and the part year gas savings of £29k and servicing and repairs saving of £22k has been reflected in the budget shown.

Capital Financing Costs

	Budgeted Capital Financing Costs	24-25	25-26	If mercury abatement loan not repaid
Mercury Abatement Equip	53,161			53,161
Refurbishment works	14,561	14,561	14,561	14,561
Cremator replacement		53,161	70,355	70,355
	67,722	67,722	84,916	138,077

If the mercury abatement loan is repaid in 2023-24, there will be a reduction of 53,161 to ongoing capital financing costs, against the revenue budget.

Once the cremator replacement financing starts in 2025-26 revenue costs will be £84,916, instead of £138,077, if not repaid.

The budget proposals for 2024-25 include £67,722 for capital financing costs.

Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Budgeted income level is unachievable with the increased competition	H	H	Consider reducing the budgeted income level	Head of Finance
Projected cremation numbers continue to fall, resulting in deficit position	H	H	Further draw down on reserves or reduced distribution	Head of Finance
Refurbishment work costs increase substantially considering cost rises and market pressures over the last 12 months	H	H	Consider options for funding the refurbishment works to minimise the pressure on the annual revenue budget	Head of Finance

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The overall aim of the budget proposals is to ensure the on-going delivery of the Cremation service whilst also providing an income source to Gwent Councils.

Options Available and considered

There are options available for consideration, for fees, distribution to constituent authorities and resulting reserve levels

All the following assumptions are based on cremation numbers of 1,614 projected for 2024-25, estimated on 85% capacity.

Distribution

Projections for 2023-24 are indicating a deficit of £148k prior to any distribution. Reserve balances are £1,162,806 (Appendix 1)

- a) If final out-turn is as projected, a distribution of £450k would require a draw of £598k from reserves, reducing the balance at year end to £565k
- b) A £250k distribution, would still require a draw from reserves, of £398k, however would retain reserve balances of £765k

Reserves

Reserve balances are currently £1,162,806, and the Committee has options to draw from reserves to maintain a distribution to Constituent Authorities in 2023-24 (Appendix 1)

The Committee could also agree to use some of the reserve balances to fund the outstanding loan on the Mercury Abatement equipment, which is £265,803. This is being funded from the revenue budget, at a cost of £53k per year, with 5 years repayments remaining. Using reserves to repay the outstanding loan, would reduce revenue expenditure by £53k per year, which would partly offset the cost of funding the Cremator replacement, should the Committee approve the recommendation.

Fees

- a) A 4% fee increase, in line with inflation, would increase the fee from £845 to £879, and could result in total additional income of £54,876. This fee level would still be lower than the average of our geographically nearest competitors.
- b) A 10% fee increase, would increase the fee from £845 to £930 and would match the average of our competitors whilst still being lower than private sector providers in the locality. This fee could result in total additional income of £137,190
- c) A 30% fee increase, would increase the fee from £845 to £1,099, and would be in line with the private crematoria in the area, at Langstone Vale and Sirhowy Valley. This option could result in total additional income of £409,956

Preferred Option and Why

Distribution

It is recommended that the Committee agree a distribution of £250,000 for 2023-24, with the shortfall to be taken from reserves. This would ensure the Committee retains reserves of £1,031k (Appendix 1)

Then starting in 2024-25 that future dividends revert to levels consistent with the annual surplus generation, rather than necessitating any annual distribution of the reserve balance, which ought to remain sufficient as a risk mitigation against unanticipated cost volatility.

Reserves

It is recommended that the Committee agree to repay the outstanding loan on the Mercury Abatement equipment, of £265,803 resulting in a saving of £53k per year on the capital financing revenue budget from 2024-25 and mitigates in part increased capital financing costs resulting from the new cremator investment.

Fees

It is recommended that there is an increase of 10% in 2024-25, to match fees to the current average of our nearest competitors. Having improved the service provided, by increasing service times in line with the competition, and offering visual tributes, it is felt that Gwent Crematorium is now well placed in the current market and is attracting increased business from funeral directors and families.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The report shows the draft budget and some of the key assumptions behind it for Committee's review and approval. Three fee levels are shown, and a 10% increase is recommended. This is a reasonable and required increase as it improves the annual surplus to that level which can sustain a £450k annual distribution to Councils which has been the historical value in this regard. Committee are recommended to approve the 10% increase.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from this report.

Comments of Service Manager for Environment and Leisure

Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation

The Council must undertake its business according to the sustainable development duty set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015. In relation to budgetary management and the charging of fees we are required to consider balancing increasing fees, to ensure sustainable public services, against the financial pressures faced by families at a time of steep rises in the cost of living. The report

sets out options for increasing income through a fee increase, which in line with competitors, and distributing dividends, whilst maintaining reserve balances at a prudent level.

The report notes that the Crematorium has experienced significant staffing changes during the financial year, and to maintain service provision, it was necessary to engage agency support. This has had an impact on the forecasted outturn however recruitment is now planned, and it is noted that the service manager will update the Committee on progress as part of their report.

Comments of Cabinet Member

Scrutiny Committees

n/a

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

n/a

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

n/a

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

In preparing this report, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered by balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs. We are considering options to provide a service which will allow us to withstand the competitive market, and meet our future wellbeing goals and objectives, and in doing so, understand the importance of involving those with an interest in achieving them, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of those to whom we provide a service.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

n/a

APPENDIX 1 – DISTRIBUTION SUMMARY 2023-24

Based on the forecasted outturn position, the following table shows the impact of various distribution levels on the reserves

	Forecast 23/24	Forecast 23/24	Forecast 23/24
(SURPLUS) / DEFICIT	147,774	147,774	147,774
Less Suggested Distribution	450,000	250,000	100,000
(Increase)/Decrease to Balances	597,774	397,774	247,774

Potential impact on Reserves at 31st March 2024

Reserves b/f £1,162,806	565,032	765,032	915,032
----------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

	StatsWales Population		450,000	250,000	100,000
	2021	%			
Blaenau Gwent	66,993	13.89	62,489	34,716	13,886
Caerphilly (Islwyn only)	70,136	14.54	65,421	36,345	14,538
Monmouthshire	93,194	19.32	86,929	48,294	19,317
Newport	159,658	33.09	148,924	82,736	33,094
Torfaen	92,453	19.16	86,237	47,910	19,164
TOTAL	482,434	100.00	450,000	250,000	100,000

APPENDIX 2 – FEE REVIEW

1. FEES in 2023-24

The table below shows the current cremation fee (as at Dec 23) in Gwent, in relation to our geographically nearest competitors.

	Basic adult Cremation fee* 1 Dec 23
ABERDARE	813.00
PONTYPRIDD	813.00
CARDIFF	820.00
BRIDGEND	824.00
GWENT	845.00
HEREFORD	908.00
LANGSTONE VALE (PRIVATE)	1010.00
SIRHOWY VALLEY (PRIVATE)	1010.00
BARRY	980.00-1030.00
FOREST OF DEAN	1025.00
GLOUCESTER	1095.00
AVERAGE FEE	926.64

* Cremation fee, plus medical referee's fee and environmental surcharge

STATISTICS

Financial Year	Actual cremations
April 2013 – March 2014	2781
April 2014 – March 2015	2886
April 2015 – March 2016	2872
April 2016 – March 2017	3013
April 2017 – March 2018	2850
April 2018 – March 2019	2352
April 2019 – March 2020	2257
April 2020 – March 2021	2097
April 2021 – March 2022	1454
April 2022 – March 2023	1614
April 2023 – March 2024 (projected)	1417
April 2024 – March 2025 (projected)	1614

2. CREMATION FEES for 2024-25

The following table shows the impact of various increases on the fees, based on the projected 24-25 cremation numbers of 1,614. Cremation numbers decreased in the current financial year, due to the ongoing refurbishment works, impacting normal operations.

% increase / decrease	Revised Fee	Impact on adult cremation fee	Impact on income levels
0%	£845	£0	£0
4%	£879	£34	£54,876
10%	£930	£85	£137,190
30%	£1099	£254	£409,956

APPENDIX 3 - DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 24-25

	23/24 ESTIMATE	24/25 DRAFT ESTIMATE based on no fee increase £845	24/25 DRAFT ESTIMATE based on 4% increase £879	24/25 DRAFT ESTIMATE based on 10% increase £930	25/26 DRAFT ESTIMATE £930
INCOME	-1,537,500	-1,537,640	-1,592,516	-1,674,830	-1,674,830
Employees	313,890	329,585	329,585	329,585	329,585
Premises	552,259	445,327	445,327	445,327	393,640
Repairs and Renewals Reserve	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Transport	1,010	500	500	500	500
Supplies + Services	162,329	162,921	162,921	162,921	162,921
Capital Financing	67,722	67,722	67,722	67,722	84,916
EXPENDITURE	1,197,210	1,106,055	1,106,055	1,106,055	1,071,562
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT prior to distribution	-340,290	-431,585	-486,461	-568,775	-603,268

Projected Reserves

Forecast reserves as at 31 March 2024	765,032
Estimated surplus as at 31 March 2025	568,775
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2025	1,333,807

Manager's Report December 2023

STATISTICS

MEMORIAL SALES

MONTH	VASE BLOCKS	SANCTUM VAULTS	LEASE RENEWALS vase blocks	LEASE RENEWALS vaults
July	1	3	5	1
August	8	5	11	5
September	8	8	6	2
October	8	9	7	3
November	123	3	5	4
December	107	1	4	3

CREMATIONS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Jan	142	134	241	211	233	246	268	240	262	278	220	254	278
Feb	137	129	225	197	211	254	258	243	262	254	200	268	256
Mar	156	134	148	196	204	230	299	277	287	241	267	279	249
April	116	141	111	223	178	237	229	268	245	222	268	237	193
May	103	143	93	240	195	219	266	266	230	234	274	270	232
Jun	121	129		140	150	164	260	264	241	239	218	193	232
Jul	110	122	100	91	212	186	219	211	237	257	211	175	204
Aug	120	131	121	98	165	176	236	244	187	206	183	168	241
Sep	111	119	141	149	181	173	228	228	232	204	194	158	
Oct	104	132	123	141	206	193	240	224	225	243	234	186	233
Nov	136	141	146	186	169	190	251	239	249	222	226	176	220
Dec	118	132	139	215	197	166	191	244	266	248	200	182	234
	1474	1586	1671	2087	2301	2434	2945	2948	2913	2848	2695	2546*	2793

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

STAFFING MATTERS

There a number of staff changes which need to be advised

- 1 Hayley Pask has joined the Admin team, from Langstone, settling in very well and will be a great asset to the service. Delme Love has also settled in well as Chapel Attendant from Co-op Funeral services.
- 2 Provision of managerial services is still being supplied an external company 'Lee Snashfold Crematoria Management and Consultancy Ltd.' Their representative James has

been with us since June and will remain until we recruit to the post. We anticipate that the post for the Bereavement Service Manager, has been re-advertised, and we will continue to review the interim manager arrangement monthly.

- 3** The Bereavement Services manager Job description had an advisory role for the Newport cemetery team. Due to service pressures we are intending to formalise this role to cover direct management of the cemetery service as requires specialist knowledge and expertise to provide the best service delivery. This has been re-advertised, closing date 16th February.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Refurbishment of waiting room and toilets

Refurbishment: construction work commenced on 24th April. The new toilets, flower room etc. have been completed and the enlarged waiting room.

Service schedule and related works

Servicing has taken place during January on the Cremators and the ID fan is still in need of repair to be booked in shortly.

Additional works in readiness for the upcoming proposed replacement of Cremators 1&2, to enable the crematory to continue to run in bypass mode, if needed.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank