

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 1 MARCH 2016 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING ON 24 FEBRUARY 2016

EC46: CABINET REPORT – CREMATORIUM PROJECT UPDATE

The Corporate Project Officer presented the Cabinet report which updated Members on progress on the Crematorium Project. He explained that the project had been split into three phases. Phase 1 was the enabling works, including new car park and footpaths. Phase 2 was the new cremator hall and associated works and Phase 3 was the new cremators and ancillary equipment installation and decommissioning works.

The Corporate Project Officer informed the Panel that the new cremation equipment became operational on 2 April 2015. The old cremators were then removed to allow the office refurbishment to go ahead which had been completed on 22 June 2015.

The Panel was informed that before any works could be carried out it was necessary to obtain a bat licence to exclude bats from the relevant parts of the building. He explained that as bats were a protected species, the Council could have been fined up to £5,000 per bat if one was killed as a result of the works, if a licence had not been obtained. During the works it was realised that there was an issue with bats away from the work area in that there was a roost of bats far up into the building and the hole that the bats were using to access the roof could not be blocked without the relevant licence. A Bat Specialist had to be called in and additional works had been proposed to ensure that the reoccurring bat problem was removed. The additional works would require a further bat licence and additional bat boxes would need to be in place before the works started.

The Corporate Project Officer explained that additional works would also include re-roofing the original building. He explained that due to asbestos in the original roof tiles these would be removed and replaced with tiles to match the new extension and the roof would be made 'bat tight'.

The Panel was referred to the project finances as set out in part 4.5 of the Corporate Project Officer's report. He informed those present that additional works to improve the air cooling system in the building had been incorporated into the budget.

The Corporate Project Officer commented he now felt the Crematorium was of high class and provided adequate staff facilities, including showers on site.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Project Officer for his report, there were no questions from the Panel.

RESOLVED: That the Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below.

1. To approve the outturn figure as shown in section 5.1 of this report.
2. To approve the works outlined in section 4 of this report in relation to both the bat mitigation and the cost of replacing the roof.