



## **Strategic Decisions On The Future Of Markeaton Crematorium**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 At the beginning of 2010 the proposed capital programme for the Environmental Services Department included: 'the replacement of cremators at Markeaton Crematorium, which are required to be changed to meet new legislation on emissions by 2012. Total costs are expected at around £1.9m'. A number of concerns were raised during scrutiny of the proposals by the Community Commission in January and February. The result was the making of the following recommendation to Council Cabinet: 'To recommend this capital scheme of £1.9m only be finalised by Cabinet following the report of the sub-group established by the Community Commission'. This was accepted.

The Sub Group comprised Councillors Grimadell, Leeming and Lowe plus Councillor Baxter. This urgent scrutiny review was completed in April with the forming of the conclusions and recommendations in the report 'Strategic Decisions On The Future Of Markeaton Crematorium' at Appendix 2.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Council Cabinet consider the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report produced on behalf of the Community Commission.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Community Commission's budget scrutiny at the beginning of 2010 included the capital programme for the Environmental Services Department. The spending plans included: 'the replacement of cremators at Markeaton Crematorium, which are required to be changed to meet new legislation on emissions by 2012. Total costs are expected at around £1.9m'.

- 3.2 This proposal was relayed to Community Commission members as being a concern to Councillor Baxter. It was decided at the January meeting that it should be the subject of further consideration at a second meeting in early February, at which Councillor Baxter would be welcome. He addressed that meeting and stated that it was essential to retain the four cremators rather than reduce to three, as proposed. He accepted that the installation of new Mercury abatement equipment may require an extension to the existing premises. He made other points about the provision of office space for employees and the service to the public. The outcome of the meeting was that the following recommendation was made to Council Cabinet:

To recommend this capital scheme of £1.9m only be finalised by Cabinet following the report of the sub-group established by the Community Commission.

This was agreed in the Council Cabinet's response to the overview and scrutiny commissions recommendations.

- 3.3 The Sub Group was comprised of Councillors Grimadell, Leeming and Lowe plus Councillor Baxter. The outcome of this scrutiny exercise was the forming of the conclusions and recommendations in the report 'Strategic Decisions On The Future Of Markeaton Crematorium'. The report was confirmed on behalf of the Community Commission by its Chair and Vice Chair exercising delegated authority.
- 3.4 The evidence considered by the Sub Group, together with the notes of the meetings held, forms one composite evidence bundle (Appendix A) and should be considered as integral to the report. It is freely available from the Overview and Scrutiny team.

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<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Strategic Decisions On The Future Of Markeaton Crematorium

## Appendix 1

### IMPLICATIONS

The following observations are from the overview and scrutiny commission.

#### Financial

1. The figures for extension works and equipment are estimates provided by Property Services, which contained caveats. The final costs cannot be known until an OJEU tendering process is undertaken. The proposal to extending service hours to Saturday mornings involves no revenue spending implications as charges would be set to fully cover the costs involved

## **Legal**

2. There is a statutory requirement that at least 50% of national cremations will be the subject of mercury abatement by 31 December 2012. 100% abatement must be achieved by December 2020. Both the Council's project team and the scrutiny review seek to achieve 100% abatement by that date through this capital scheme. Although an OJEU tendering process must be used the Commission are recommending the use of existing Framework Agreements to reduce the number of stages and time involved.

## **Personnel**

3. The report recommends regular Saturday services be introduced which would affect shift patterns.

## **Equalities impact**

4. The introduction of lunchtime services and services on Saturday mornings will meet customer preferences and particularly benefit relatives and friends who live a long way from Derby.

## **Corporate Priorities**

5. The report promotes 'Giving you excellent services and value for money'.