

COMMITTEE : **Housing & Environment** DATE: 11th January 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: Replacement Cremators –progress report

REPORT NUMBER : H&E/09/124

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with an update of progress with the replacement of the cremators at Hazlehead Crematorium. **All changes from previous reports to this Committee are in bold type for ease of reference.**

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- (i) notes the progress made to date on replacing the out of date and unreliable cremators at Hazlehead Crematorium ; and
- (ii) instructs the Director of Housing & Environment to report back on progress at the Committee's meeting in February 2010.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As Members will be aware from the last progress report on 19th November 2009, the capital spend profile for the project is as follows:

08/09 - £560,000

09/10 - £1,900,000

10/11 - £1,400,000

11/12 - £100,000

At the time of writing, the actual spend against the current financial year was **£510,687**, or **26.9 %** of the projected figure. The anticipated spend this financial year is still expected to be around the £1.9 million pound mark. The payment due in January is expected to be significant as this will include the cost of the supply of the cremators and ancillary equipment.

The anticipated spend for 09/10 on the project to replace the cremators at the Crematorium is therefore still on target to achieve £1.9 million.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report supports the Community Plan's vision for land use and the environment, namely, for Aberdeen to be a City that protects, enhances and values its environment. It also links generally to the Council's policy statement, Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking, in terms of its declared intention to be an efficient Council.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

This project is being undertaken to replace outdated, worn and unreliable cremators which have cost increasingly high amounts to maintain, year on year. The level of maintenance and repair causes delays in cremation services and consequent distress to bereaved relatives and friends. The unreliability of the cremators and their operating /monitoring equipment also causes undue stress to the dedicated staff at the Crematorium, as well as putting the Council at risk of contravening Environmental protection legislation on a regular basis. The new system will have appropriate backups systems as well as being reliable and more energy efficient.

6. REPORT

As members will be aware from previous progress reports, the work started on schedule and all Funeral Directors had been briefed on the traffic management and other implications well in advance.

This has proved very successful, as no complaints have been received as a result of the works to date. The Crematorium Superintendent and his staff have done, and are doing, an excellent job of continuing to provide a demanding service to the public in the midst of considerable upheaval.

The following progress had been made as of 7th December 2009.

- **Despite very challenging weather conditions during the month of November 2009, works are progressing on programme.**
- **The waterproof membrane to the roof and the stonework to the walls of the main extension is virtually complete. The copper cladding to the roof is about to commence. Building works to the link are progressing.**
- **The gas main and meter will be installed on site in early January 2010 and the cremators are due to be delivered on 9th and 10th of January 2010.**

Members will be aware that the 10th of January 2010 falls on a Sunday. The contract allows for work to be carried out on Sundays on exceptional occasions such as this, provided that visitors to the Garden of Remembrance and the Memorial Wall are not disturbed any more than is

absolutely unavoidable. In recognition of this, signage will be placed prominently at the entrance to the site making visitors aware of the works taking place. Colleagues in Corporate Communications will assist with the issue of a press release, making the public aware of the works in advance and explaining the reason for them taking place on a Sunday.

7.REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Head of Service: Shelter & Environment (Interim Lead for Environment)

nstead@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Tel. 01224 523096



6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) **Replacement Cremators: Progress Report.
(Resources Management Committee 5th May 2009)**
- (ii) **Replacement Cremators –Progress Report
(Housing and Environment Committee 6th October 2009)**
- (iii) **Replacement Cremators –Progress Report
(Housing and Environment Committee 19th November 2009)**