

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE : Housing & Environment DATE: **25th May 2010**

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: Replacement Cremators – progress report

REPORT NUMBER : H&E/10/067

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- (i) notes the progress made to date on replacing the out of date and unreliable cremators at Hazlehead Crematorium ; and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 on **24th August 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

The total expenditure against the current financial year was **£1,901,406.60**,

The anticipated target spend for 09/10 on the project to replace the cremators at the Crematorium was achieved.

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This project is being undertaken to replace outdated, worn and unreliable cremators which have cost increasingly high amounts to maintain, year on year.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 9th April 2010.

Works are currently on schedule for completing section 1 on programme on 23rd May. The commissioning of the cremators is due to commence on Monday (12th April) with the first cremations taking place during w/c 3rd May. Mansells are keen and are endeavouring to complete section 1 one week earlier on 16th May as originally intended.

The cremations that will take place during the week commencing 3rd May will be carried out by Facultatieve Technologies (cremator manufacturer) engineers with your staff in attendance, the following week (w/c 10th May) hands on training of Crematorium staff will take place with a further 4 weeks when Crematorium staff will continue to operate the machines with Facultatieve Technologies engineers on site to advise and do any further training that may be necessary.

This should mean that there will be 3 weeks of using the new machines before the existing ones are decommissioned either on 17th or 24th May depending on progress over the next 5 - 6 weeks.

There is insufficient electricity capacity on site to run the existing cremators and the new equipment simultaneously, therefore the new equipment is going to be commissioned using the stand-by generator. This

is fuelled by LPG and the existing LPG tank is being replaced with 3 new larger tanks to supply the generator and dual fuel cremator. The supply of LPG for commissioning purposes will be via the existing supply contract however arrangements will be made for the cost of fuel used for this purpose to be re-charged.

Overall Progress Assessment

Works are progressing well.

Section 1 - Date for Completion 23rd May 2010

Section 2 - Date for Completion 1st August 2010

Section 3 - Date for Completion 12th September 2010.

Works are progressing in line with these dates.

7.REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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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)
- (iv) Replacement Cremators –Progress Report
(Housing and Environment Committee 11th January 2010)
- (v) Replacement Cremators –Progress Report
(Housing and Environment Committee 16th February 2010)
- (vi) Replacement Cremators –Progress Report
(Housing and Environment Committee 13th April 2010)**

