

CHILTERN CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE - 24 FEBRUARY 2010

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

4 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

Contact Officers: Alison Howes (01494 732260) and Tina Pearce (01494 732233)

1. The recommended Fees and Charges to come into effect from 1 April 2010 are shown in **Appendix 4.1** together with the current year charges for comparison purposes. An across the board increase of 3% has been applied to the charges.
2. Last year the main cremation fee (excluding organists' fees) was increased from £390 to £420 (a 7.7% increase). From the table below it can be seen that the Chilterns Crematorium fee remains lower than surrounding crematoria, both including and excluding the organist charge. An increase of 3% to £433 is being proposed for 2010/11. At this level the fee will still remain the lowest when compared with neighbouring authorities, even using the current year values.
3. The table below shows the current year fees for Chiltern and neighbouring crematoria for comparison purposes.

Crematorium	2009/2010 Fee £	2009/10 Fee With Organists £
Chilterns	420	450
Slough	520	520
Reading	450	450
Bracknell	560	560
Milton Keynes	457	468.35
West Herts	460	460
Ruislip	495	495
Oxford	608	608

4. The balances continue to accumulate and consideration of the Capital Programme including the mercury abatement project and the potential of additional capital requirements for any future strategic developments requires the Joint Committee to be mindful of these projects when agreeing the fee level. An increase of 3% to £433 is the minimum increase recommended to the Joint Committee. The impact of larger fee increases on income levels compared to 2009/10 revised figures, assuming the number of cremations is 2,950, is shown in the table below:-

Fee	Additional Income over 2009/10 revised levels
£433	38,350
£435	44,250
£440	59,000
£445	73,750
£450	88,500

RECOMMENDATION

That the Joint Committee determine the fees and charges as shown in Appendix 4.1 and in particular discuss and approve the level of the main cremation fee.

Background Papers: None