

SUBJECT:	Moving to Unitary
REPORT OF:	Treasurer of the Crematoria Joint Committee – Jim Burness
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Principal Solicitor – Sue Markham
REPORT AUTHOR	Principal Solicitor – Sue Markham
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members of the Joint Committee on the governance arrangements that will apply following the establishment of the new Buckinghamshire Council on 1 April 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Members are asked to note the report.**

2. Content of Report

2.1 The Buckinghamshire (Structural Changes) Order 2019 came into force on 23 May 2019. The Order abolishes the current district and county councils on 1 April 2020 and establishes a new district council, Buckinghamshire Council, on the same date.

2.2 As the constituent members of this Joint Committee will no longer exist from 1 April, there will no longer be any need for formal joint arrangements from that date. The governance arrangements and decision making in relation to the crematoria and cemeteries are Cabinet functions alongside all the services of the new Council, and will be dealt with in the Constitution for the new Council.

2.3 The proposed operational structure for the new Council places cemeteries and crematoria within the corporate directorate for Communities, under the responsibility of the Service Director for Neighbourhood Services. This service area will also cover Waste & Recycling services, Registrar services and Coroners. It is envisaged that the Corporate and Services Directors will be appointed before Christmas.

2.4 The members of staff who currently manage, administer, operate and maintain the crematoria at Amersham and Bierton will be transferred to the new Council on their existing terms & conditions, and preparations are in hand to ensure continuity of service delivery for members of the public.

3. Corporate Implications

3.1 The fees and charges for 2020/2021 will need to be agreed in advance of vesting day so that the overall budgets can be set. The Shadow Executive will be considering the draft budget at its meeting on 7 January 2020 so one further meeting of this Joint Committee, well in advance of that date, may be necessary to make recommendations with regard to fees and charges.

Background Papers:	None
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