

## **CHILTERN'S CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Graham Peart

**Wards Affected:** All

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### **PROPOSED DECISION**

That:

- (i) the powers of the joint committee to operate more than one crematorium be extended;
- (ii) provisions be incorporated in relation to disposal of assets;
- (iii) the revised constitution be agreed and adopted, subject to the agreement of the other constituent Authorities;
- (iv) delegate authority be granted to the District Solicitor, in consultation with the Head of Community and relevant Cabinet Member to make any necessary minor amendments prior to final adoption; and
- (v) the update on the new Crematorium project be noted.

### **Reason for Decision**

The Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee was established to operate and administer the crematorium built in Amersham. Now that the new crematorium at Bierton is under construction and is planned to open in Spring 2019 it is necessary to ensure that the Joint Committee's powers are extended to include Bierton (and any other crematoria that the Councils may develop in the future.)

### **Corporate Implications**

1. Financial – the financial arrangements that currently apply will be extended to include the new crematorium. Any material changes that impact on the Council will be presented to Cabinet for consideration if and when the situation arises.
2. Legal – the scope and powers of the Joint Committee need to be extended to ensure that decisions taken in respect of the new (and any future crematorium) are lawful.

### **Executive Summary**

3. The Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee was established to operate and administer the crematorium built in Amersham. Now that the new crematorium at Bierton is under construction and is planned to open in Spring 2019 it is necessary to ensure that the Joint Committee's powers are extended to include Bierton (and any other crematoria that the Councils may develop in the future).
4. The opportunity has also been taken to incorporate provisions in relation to disposal of assets and sharing of surpluses on dissolution, which are not addressed in the current version of the constitution.

### **Sustainable Community Strategy/Council Priorities - Implications**

5. The service supports the following Council Priorities:

People – provision of cremation services to meet the needs of the bereaved.

Progress - joint working to provide sufficient crematorium services within the Council's contributes to delivering cost- effective, customer- focused services.

### **Background and Issues**

6. The revised Constitution is attached as **Appendix A**.
7. The proposed changes are flagged and explained by notes in the margin.
8. An exempt update on the construction of the new Berton Crematorium is included at **Appendix B**.

### **Consultation**

9. The Council is represented on the Committee by the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Community Services. The Committee agreed the proposed changes at its meeting of 26 September 2018 and is now seeking their ratification by member authorities.

### **Options**

10. It is essential that the Joint Committee has the necessary authority to operate and administer the new crematorium at Berton as well as the existing one at Amersham, so there is no alternative option to revising the Constitution.

### **Conclusions**

11. Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed changes to enable the Joint Committee to function effectively.

### **Next Steps**

12. The revised draft constitution also needs to be approved by the Cabinet of Aylesbury Vale District Council before coming into effect.

### **Background Papers**

None