



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Approval to seek Tenders - Roselawn Crematorium
Date:	19 th August 2011
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
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Relevant background information

Members will be aware that a proposal to install mercury abatement equipment at Roselawn Crematorium is included as a committed project in the capital programme for delivery in 2011/12.

Key Issues

At their meeting on 11 August 2011 the Parks & Leisure (P&L) Committee considered a further report on the proposal (a copy of that report is attached as Appendix A).

The main points of the report are:

- A recent review into the operation of the crematorium highlighted a number of issues around the existing cremators and the Parks & Leisure Department commissioned a further technical report;
- This report found that the cremators were not functioning as efficiently or effectively as would be expected, although the precise reason could not be determined. It concluded that although the existing cremators could be kept operational for a further several years, albeit with a decreasing level of efficiency, they were nearing the end of their useful life and that it would be imprudent to attach mercury abatement equipment to these old cremators;
- In line with the Council's Gate's process an Economic Appraisal (EA) was commissioned to establish a preferred option in regards to the proposal;
- The preferred option recommended by the EA is that the existing cremators should be replaced with new cremators and inbuilt mercury abatement.

The P&L Committee agreed to the recommendation, from a service perspective, to proceed with the preferred option outlined above and to commend their decision to the SP&R Committee for delivery by December 2012.

The SP&R Committee is now therefore asked to consider, from a corporate capital finance perspective, the commendation from the P&L Committee and decide whether to approve the advancement of the development of the preferred option to full commitment to invest.

Award of contracts for capital projects are made to the firms submitting the most economically advantageous tenders on the basis of a cost/quality evaluation in accordance with BCC procurement guidelines.

Equality and Good Relations Considerations

There are no equality implications.

Resources Implications

Financial

Provision of £1.5m is currently allowed within the capital programme for this proposal as part of the rate setting process.

The capital cost of the preferred option is estimated at £1.8m, to be financed by loan of £1.5m and £300k revenue contribution.

Human Resources

There are no additional HR implications in respect of this report.

Asset & other implications

The provision of the new cremators will ensure that the Council meets its legislative obligations and will provide a high quality cremation service for the city and the wider region.

Recommendations & Decisions

The Committee is recommended to consider, from a corporate capital finance perspective, the commendation from the P&L Committee and agree to approve the advancement of the replacement cremators and mercury abatement system with a full commitment to invest including invitation of tenders, award of contracts to the firm(s) submitting the most economically advantageous tenders and application to the relevant Government Department for sanction to raise a loan of £1.5m in respect of project expenditure.

Key to Abbreviations

SP&R - Strategic Policy & Resources

P&L - Parks & Leisure Committee

EA – Economic Appraisal

Documents attached

Report to Parks and Leisure Committee on 11th August, 2011