

Extract from minutes of:-

SPECIAL STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

23rd June 2021

Crematorium Recovery Plan

The Director of City Services reminded the Committee that the Crematorium had been closed to the public since 2nd April, 2020 and that families had only been permitted to hold a short committal service outside the building.

She reported that a recent risk assessment had recommended that, with an extended time between cremations to allow for detailed cleaning and with some modifications to seating and flooring, a maximum of twenty-eight mourners be accommodated within the Crematorium at any one time. She pointed out that the Council, as the owner of the Crematorium, had a responsibility to manage the risk of Covid-19 transmission and to ensure that the number of mourners did not exceed twenty-eight. Funeral directors had a duty to ensure that family representatives were fully aware of the requirement and officers had been working with them to agree new operating procedures.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee:

- i. agree to re-open the Crematorium Chapel on 9th July, 2021 for short committal services, with up to a maximum of twenty-eight mourners being permitted; and
- ii. consider whether to retain the screen and speakers outside the crematorium building to facilitate additional mourners over and above the twenty-eight who would have access to the building and to note that this arrangement would be kept under review in terms of managing the impacts on numbers and the smooth transition between services.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

That the Committee agrees to re-open the Crematorium Chapel on 9th July, 2021 for short committal services, with up to a maximum of twenty-eight mourners being permitted but to dispense with the screen and speakers outside the building.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor McReynolds,

That the Committee agrees to re-open the Crematorium Chapel on 9th July, 2021 for short committal services, with up to a maximum of twenty-eight mourners being permitted and to retain the screen and speakers whilst

examining other measures which could be put in place to accommodate mourners outside the building.

Upon being carried, the amendment was put to the meeting as the substantive motion and was again carried.

Call-in

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 48 (a) (2) (c), that the aforementioned decisions would not be subject to call-in, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.