

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

General Exception – Proposed Key Decision

Notice is hereby given that, on 16 November 2017, Cabinet proposes to make the following key decision in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. This key decision is not included in the statutory forward plan published on 18 October 2017.

ADDITIONAL BORROWING ASSOCIATED WITH A CREMATORIUM WITH TWO CHAPELS

1. Cabinet will, at its meeting to be held on 16 November 2017, consider a report that provides an update on the project to build and manage the Council's own Crematorium that was first approved by Cabinet on 20 April 2017 and then by Council on 3 May 2017.
2. Since the project began, officers have had further opportunity to examine best practice from other operators of crematoria around the UK, seek further views from a range of service users and agencies, as well as refining the cost estimates for construction.
3. Projected demand has indicated that in time additional capacity will be required, even if not immediate, refinements to the business case show that it may be earlier than first estimates and potentially within 10 years of the current proposed opening. In addition, the construction of a second chapel will cause a degree of disruption, with a real risk in relation to business continuity due to the scale of works including the possibility that it may be necessary to close the facility for a period of time.
4. Installation of a second chapel as part of the original construction will require an additional £1million in prudential borrowing. To delay the installation of a second chapel until after the facility as currently approved is completed is estimated to incur an additional 40% cost (£1.4million).

DOCUMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET

The report to be considered by Cabinet will be available from Stockton on Tees Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton, TS18 1LD from Wednesday 8 November 2017 and via the Council's website from that date. If you have any queries relating to receiving/viewing the documents please contact Peter Bell on 01642 526188 or e mail peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk

PROPOSED DECISION

Cabinet will be asked to:

1. recommend to Council to support the construction of a second chapel with associated increase in prudential borrowing, to ensure that Stockton's Crematorium provides flexible service levels and is future proofed continuing to serve the needs of our community now and in the years to come.

REASONS FOR GENERAL EXCEPTION

The Forward Plan containing those key decisions Cabinet intend taking at its meeting to be held on 16 November 2017 did not detail this matter for consideration at that meeting.

The ongoing refinements to the business case that have identified the requirements for a second chapel much earlier than in the life of the building, have meant that it is prudent to reconsider the original proposal. It is now considered essential that the above decisions are placed before

Cabinet/Council as soon as possible, in order to secure the prudential borrowing approval and enable the scheme to be designed and funded on the basis of two chapels. It is considered impracticable to defer the decisions to a future meeting, to allow their inclusion on the Council's Forward Plan (acting as the document described in regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012) as to do so would prevent the scheme progressing in line with the original timescale for opening.

Beccy Brown
Proper Officer
7th November 2017