

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	9 JUNE 2015	3

CREMATORIUM CHAPEL CAPACITY - NOTICE OF MOTION

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report presents information on the notice of motion that was considered by full council in March in relation to the need to extend the Crematorium chapel and car park. The report seeks a decision whether members wish to see further work undertaken on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That members consider the report and decide whether or not they wish to commission further work on the notice of motion to extend the crematorium chapel and car park.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

To Promote the Enhancement of The Natural & Built Environment (Place)	√	To Encourage Cohesive Communities (People)	√
To Promote a Thriving Economy (Prosperity)		To Meet Expectations of our Customers (Performance)	√

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council on 30th March 2015 considered the following notice of motion submitted by Cllr Keith Beckett:

“that the Council look in to Crematorium re-Extension to the Chapel and Car Parking as for it to be put in to the next capital program”.

Following a discussion the following amendment was moved and carried;

“That this issue is looked at and considered during the next municipal year in preparation for submission to the next capital programme.”

REPORT

1. At its meeting on 30th March 2015, Council considered a notice of motion under rule 11 of the Council Procedure Rules, which was proposed by Councillor Keith Beckett and seconded by Councillor Oades.

"The Notice of Motion is that the Council look in to Crematorium re-Extension to the Chapel and Car Parking as for it to be put in to the next capital program".

Councillor Beckett stated that he felt the current facilities at the crematorium were no longer fit for purpose and that he wanted the Council to look at increasing the size and capacity of the chapel and car parking facilities. Following a discussion an amendment was moved by Councillor Little and seconded by Councillor Fazackerley as following, which was carried;

"That this issue is looked at and considered during the next municipal year in preparation for submission to the next capital programme."

2. This report presents further information to enable members to initially consider the issue and decide whether further investigation and research by officers is necessary.
3. The Chapel was built in 1956/57 and opened in 1958. It has a floor area of some 92msq and was designed to accommodate 72 people seated (based on 12 pews with 6 persons per pew). This can increase to 80 people if 7 per pew are seated which has been the case on occasions. In addition there are standing areas at both sides of the pews and a bigger standing area by the exit doors. The outer doors can also be closed and people can stand in the entrance vestibule. Given this and with the agreement and good will of those attending another 80 – 120 people can directly witness the service bringing a maximum capacity of approximately 200.
4. The council does not keep records of how often people have to stand at services but it is estimated from direct experience that it is around 1 in 20 services. The number of times all visitors to a service cannot get into the chapel is less than one per month.
5. The opportunity to expand the chapel is limited on all sides: -
 - Front – The access road closing would prevent access to the rear of the cemetery and graves are within 10m of front.
 - Left side- Graves are within 5m of building.
 - Back – The road is needed for access to the cemetery, this would require moving the cremation equipment.
 - Right side – It would be feasible to extend the chapel over the existing garden of remembrance, this is the only practical option.
6. It is estimated, based on experience and current knowledge that an extension on the right side of the chapel could cost between £400,000 to £600,000 depending on the size of the extension, the quality of the finishes and external appearance and landscaping.
7. There is a scheme within the 2017/18 capital programme to the value of £300,000 to extend the burial ground to the rear of the site. The scheme includes for the creation of a modest 20 space car park at the rear of the building along with improvements to traffic management flows. If larger funerals are facilitated and promoted at the chapel this will inevitably increase demand on car parking further which may not be catered for within the above proposals to provide the additional 20 spaces and may indeed be a consideration of any planning permission sought.

8. It must be noted that the borough has a number of churches that are capable of holding large funerals. There are also venues like Lowther which can seat over 400 people should it be required.
9. The crematorium operates a 30 minute time slot for most funerals. If the facility is extended and promoted and there would be an increase in the number of people attending this may impact on the individual time funerals take and may require longer time slots which could reduce the number of services which could be held.
10. There are other implications which would need to be considered in depth should members be minded to pursue the proposal which include:
 - the loss of garden of remembrance may detract from the setting/ambiance of the existing chapel,
 - it may be considered that the garden of remembrance is not appropriate to be used for any extension as the site may have been used (unofficially) to scatter ashes by some previously,
 - noise may be an issue from an extension on the site of the garden of remembrance as sounds from the crematory could possibly be overheard if windows are open for ventilation in the summer,
 - disruption to service including loss of income whilst the facility is closed whilst works are taking place.
11. The report gives an initial assessment of the proposal to provide an extension to the crematorium chapel and car park. Members are asked to consider the report and decide whether or not they wish further work to be undertaken to more fully consider the notice of motion.
12. If members wish to proceed further with a scheme it would need the appointment of an architect and quantity surveyor to investigate and design a scheme which could be considered by members as part of the council's capital programme. The cost of these services to produce a scheme to RIBA stage D is estimated at between £20,000 - £30,000 for which there is currently no budget provision for.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	<p>Although detailed costings have not yet been undertaken, given the early stage of the proposal, based upon an initial assessment of the cost of extending the crematorium chapel it is apparent that this would be a scheme of significant cost. The currently approved capital programme does not include any provision for this scheme.</p> <p>Additionally there would be a consequential loss of income during any closure period which could be quantified if and when a more detailed description of the works becomes available. The approved revenue budget currently anticipates no such loss of income.</p>
Legal	There are no implications
Community Safety	There are no implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Council agenda/minutes	30 th March 2015	http://www.fylde.gov.uk/meetings/details/1202