

Bolsover District Council

Executive

27th July 2020

Shirebrook Crematorium

Report of the Portfolio Holder - Economic Development

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To update Executive on proposals for a crematorium on land at Shirebrook.
- To secure funding for pre-planning technical work.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 Executive will already be aware that the Council has made a successful investment in the Brimmington Crematorium operated in partnership with Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.
- 1.2 Executive will also be aware from various updates from the Leader that the Council has ambitions to invest in a similar facility within the District.

Site Plan



- 1.3 The proposed site for the crematorium would be on land owned by Shirebrook Town Council adjacent to the existing cemetery.
- 1.4 Initial work has been carried out on assessing the feasibility of this site and there are no obvious planning constraints on development of a crematorium on the land.
- 1.5 Statutory separation distances have also been considered (as shown on the above site plan) and a developable area of the site can be identified that would be large enough to accommodate a crematorium.
- 1.6 Therefore, the next steps to be able to work out whether these proposals are viable would be to evaluate quantitative and qualitative need for the facility and then identify an operator.
- 1.7 A qualitative need for a new crematorium might relate to a high demand at other crematoria resulting in a significant delay between a person's death and their funeral, for example.
- 1.8 It might also relate to journey times and the general presumption that a funeral cortege should not be expected to travel for more than 30 minutes to the place of cremation.
- 1.8 A quantitative need for a new crematorium relates more directly to the number of cremations carried out on a yearly basis within the local area.
- 1.9 These factors underpin the 'business case' for a new facility, would inform negotiations with the Town Council around their interest in the land, and influence the likelihood of finding an appropriate operator.
- 1.10 A working budget is now needed to pursue the necessary technical work to assess whether these issues affect the overall feasibility and long term viability of the proposals.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Council needs to be satisfied that the proposals would be deliverable before the scheme is progressed through planning.
- 2.2 Therefore an informed decision needs to be taken on the feasibility and viability of a new crematorium on the land at Shirebrook based on the quantitative and qualitative need for the new facility before this scheme can be progressed.
- 2.3 In the absence of any budget for this type of work, it is recommended that £20,000 is allocated from the transformation reserve to the project to commission the relevant technical reports.
- 2.4 The reports will be commissioned on the basis of obtaining a minimum of three written quotations and selecting the most appropriate consultant (in terms of cost and quality).

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 When the reports are commissioned, the successful contractors will consult with local crematoria. Consultation is already being undertaken with various consultees on any future planning application.
- 3.2 However, there is no need for a wider public consultation at this stage because the work to be commissioned is related solely to technical matters to inform the proposals, which will be subject of full public consultation if and when the proposals go through the planning process.
- 3.3 There are no equality issues arising from commissioning the reports referred to in this report but any subsequent reporting might find that a new facility is required to address a shortfall in provision to groups of individuals with shared protected characteristics.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 A 'do nothing' option was rejected because this would not progress the scheme.
- 4.2 A 'do more' option is not recommended at this stage because the outcome of the reports may make any additional work carried out at this stage redundant.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 The funding being sought is intended to start 'de-risking' the crematorium proposals and as a minimum; provide the Council with a better understanding of the risks associated with the project, and inform future decision making on the scheme.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 There are no data protection issues arising from this report or any subsequent reporting on the qualitative and quantitative need for the new facility.
- 5.2.2 There are statutory requirements relating to the provision of crematoria that will need to be taking into account as these proposals progress such as mandatory separation distances, for example. .

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that £20,000 is allocated from the transformation reserves to the project to commission technical reports on qualitative and quantitative need for a new crematorium on land at Shirebrook, under delegated authority granted to the Assistant Director of Development.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	All
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	All

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title	
n/a		
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>		
n/a		
Report Author		Contact Number
Chris Fridlington		EXT: 2354