

Cheltenham Borough Council
Overview & Scrutiny Committee
3 April 2014

Scrutiny Task Group Review - Cemetery and Crematorium
Covering Report

Accountable member	Councillor Chris Ryder, Chair of Scrutiny Task Group
Accountable officer	Rosalind Reeves Democratic Services Manager
Executive summary	At its meeting on 25 November 2013 Overview & Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of the Cheltenham Cemetery and Crematorium. A Scrutiny Task Group was set up and the findings and recommendations of that Group are set out in detail in the attached Scrutiny Task Group Report.
Recommendations	<p>That Committee agrees the recommendations set out in the Scrutiny Task Group Report and recommends to Cabinet that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the Scrutiny Task Group Report findings and recommendations are noted and considered,2. the recommendations in relation to procurement (i-v) be accommodated within the Authority's Procurement Strategy,3. the recommendations in respect of staff management (ix and x) be implemented by the appropriate Director,4. the recommendation regarding abatement (xv) is taken forward by the responsible Cabinet Member,5. the recommendation in respect of legal options (xii) is taken forward by the Borough Solicitor,6. the recommendations in respect of project management (vi and vii and viii) are included within the Authority's project management processes and procedures,7. the recommendation in respect of risk management and the Corporate Risk Register (viii) is endorsed by the Authority's senior leadership team, and8. the remaining recommendations (xi, xiii and xvi) are actioned by Cabinet/appropriate Cabinet Member

Financial implications	<p><i>Officers will be requested to assess the financial implications before the report goes to Cabinet.</i></p> <p>Contact officer: , @cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242</p>
Legal implications	<p>The recommendations in respect of procurement processes will require legal input when updating the procurement strategy to ensure that any changes made are legally robust.</p> <p>Whilst there can be no certainty for recovery of the losses incurred by the Authority in this matter, One Legal is continuing to explore possible routes for legal redress.</p> <p>Contact officer: peter.lewis@teWKesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272012</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p><i>Officers will be requested to assess the HR implications of the recommendations regarding staff management before the report goes to Cabinet.</i></p> <p>Contact officer: , @cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242</p>
Key risks	These are outlined in the report
Corporate and Community Plan implications	<i>To be added before the report goes to Cabinet</i>
Environmental and climate change implications	<p>There is no statutory requirement for mercury abatement equipment to be fitted as the cremation sector operates a 'burden sharing' approach (the CAMEO scheme). This is because the government's target for cutting mercury emitted into the environment can be met without the need for all crematoria to fit abatement equipment. The government has set national, rather than local, targets because mercury emissions do not impact directly on the local environment. However mercury is toxic and when released into the environment accumulates in the air and water and has an effect on health via the food chain, particularly when it is deposited in water and taken up by fish.</p> <p>Whilst there is no direct local impact, the council is committed to enhancing and protecting the environment and it would therefore be good practice and support this objective to ensure the abatement equipment is brought into operation.</p>
Property/Asset Implications	<i>These are set out in the report</i>

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Appendices	1. Task Group report (including its appendices)

Background information	
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