

# PLYMOUTH CREMATORIUM: SCRUTINY UPDATE

Sept 2022



## INTRODUCTION

The Plymouth Crematorium at The Park will provide the citizens of Plymouth with a new, purpose built crematorium with associated facilities off Haye Road, Plympton. This is needed in order to continue to be the main crematoria for the city. Investment will deliver quality facilities that meet 21<sup>st</sup> century customer expectations and capacity to meet future demands.

At the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2022, Members were briefed on the position of the Crematorium Project, and in particular increases in costs. A number of recommendations were made; these are listed below along with a brief summary of the actions that have taken place to progress.

## PROGRESS SINCE JULY 2022

1.	Cabinet were encouraged to act swiftly in signing a design and build contract for the construction of the Crematorium works;
	<i>A Capital Budget Variation was agreed by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> August which enabled the contract award to take place.</i> <i>Completed</i>
2.	The full updated business case for the Crematorium project was submitted to the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be discussed under part 2;
	<i>This has been submitted and is on the Agenda for the September Committee</i> <i>Completed</i>
3.	A governance board was established by Cabinet with cross party membership as a matter of urgency for the Crematorium project.
	<i>A cross party Plymouth Crematorium Oversight Group was set up and had its inaugural meeting. Membership; Cllr Patel, Cllr Haydon, Cllr Shayer, Cllr Lowry</i> <i>Supported by Officers; Ruth Harrell, David Northey, Karen Jennings, Graham Smith.</i> <i>The Members received;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An update on the project, including oversight of the Project Board minutes and the latest Dashboard report. This gave assurances around the governance of the project, as well as an update on the project</i></li> <li>• <i>An overview of plans for the next 6 months, identifying key milestones</i></li> <li>• <i>A review of the more detailed Business Plan which includes financial details and is included within Part 2 papers.</i></li> </ul> <i>The Group will be meeting two monthly.</i>

	<i>Ongoing – action completed</i>
4.	A 'lessons learnt' exercise in terms of internal processes (skills development, internal project management of major developments, etc) is initiated in order to inform future major capital projects undertaken by the Council;
	<i>This is being planned in. The Committee are asked to note that a review of the internal process in the light of cost increases did take place once cost increases were identified. This did not identify any way in which these increases could have been prevented, though there was a recommendation to strengthen project management, which was put into place rapidly.</i>
5.	The cross party work to review the capital programme agreed as part of budget setting should review the impact of rising costs and scheduling on all capital programme activity in light of lessons being learnt from the crematorium project;
	<i>To follow from 4.</i>
6.	That the Crematorium project is added as a standing item to the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel until the work is successfully completed and the facility in full use;
	<i>In place - completed</i>
7.	At the 12 September 2022 Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Panel, a focus upon Government guidance and regulation specifically regarding council operated crematoria and budget management is held under part 2;
	<i>Included under Part 2 of the Committee meeting Completed</i>
8.	A site visit is scheduled for Members to see the scale of the site and works on the ground.
	<i>This has taken place. Completed.</i>