

**REPORT TO: THE PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE –
23 JUNE 2008**

**REPORT BY: THE CLERK TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE AND THE MANAGER
AND REGISTRAR**

PROVISION OF INTERNET BROADCASTING OF SERVICES

Purpose

1. To advise the Joint Committee of an approach that has been received for the provision of the Internet broadcasting of services, where this has been specifically requested by a family, and to consider the way forward.

Recommendation

That the Manager and Registrar, in consultation with the Clerk and the Treasurer, be authorised to investigate the provision of the Internet broadcasting of services and to report back to a future meeting on ways and means by which this can be achieved.

Background

2. Recently there have been a number of press articles about the installation of a webcam service installed at Southampton Crematorium for the internet broadcasting of services. This is not a new idea and a number of crematoria have had similar systems for a number of years. It was something looked at 3 years ago but it was felt at the time that the quality and reliability was not sufficient. The technology has now moved ahead and this is a service that the public may now come to expect in this digital age. Within the current Crematorium Development Plan the Joint Committee has acknowledged the need to keep under review the way in which technology and the web site could be further developed in the interests of an efficient and effective, yet caring, service to the bereaved.

3. After the coverage in the press the Manager and Registrar was recently approached by a company that specialises in this type of technology. The Manager and Registrar had an initial meeting with the company's representative at which it was proposed that the company would install all the necessary hardware and software at no charge and administer the service on the Crematorium's behalf, paying the Joint Committee a commission for each time the service is used. A service would only be web cast on the internet where this had been specifically requested by the family and to view the service over the internet would require a password/pin to be entered via a secure site.

4. At present the Crematorium does not have the necessary equipment or expertise to run this service. The Manager and Registrar's preferred option would initially be for a fixed term contract with a suitable external contractor whereby the contractor would take the initial risk. At the conclusion of the term the Joint Committee could then review the position as to how the service was operating and the way in which the contractor had performed.

5. The Manager and Registrar has spoken to Southampton Crematorium about its web casting service and at present Southampton has a take up of about 2-3 services per week. Southampton is charged £35 for the service by the supplier, but the authority had to pay the initial set up costs.

Data Protection

6. We understand there may be some concerns as to how this proposal sits with Data Protection legislation and these would have to be clarified before proceeding.

James Clark
Manager and Registrar

John Haskell
Clerk to the Joint Committee

Background List of Documents –
Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 - None

JH/me
12 June 2008