

**REPORT TO: THE PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE  
13 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**REPORT BY: THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR**

**SUBJECT: REPAIRS TO CREMATORS**

**Purpose of the Report**

To advise on the unplanned work recently undertaken to Cremator Nos. 1 and 2

**Recommendation**

That the action taken by the officers, after consultation with the Chairman, in respect of repairs to Cremators No. 1 and 2 be noted.

**Background to the Report**

The Joint Committee has a programme of works to ensure that the cremators are kept in good condition. In respect of the refractory brickwork this essentially is either a replacement of the hearths after approximately 1000 cremations or a complete re-lining after approximately 3000 cremations. The cremators are routinely serviced twice a year and the contractor gives a report with any recommendations for work required to the brickwork. A provision for cremator brickwork repairs of £6,000 was made in the 2010 repairs and renewals fund.

**Cremator No 1.**

A completed re-lining of this cremator was planned for 2012. When routine maintenance works were scheduled earlier this year a collapse of the brickwork occurred. This occurred during the cooling operation, to enable these works to be undertaken. Such a collapse is considered to be a rare occurrence and would have cost approximately £19,000 to rectify. This cost compares to that of £28,000 for a complete re-lining. It was therefore agreed to bring forward the re-lining thereby avoiding abortive expenditure being undertaken.

**Cremator No 2.**

Lesser works than envisaged relating to the brickwork of Cremator No. 2 were carried out at a cost of under £4,000

**Process**

The cost of the works to these two cremators was unforeseen and exceeds the budgetary provision for 2010/11. Funding existed within the repairs and renewal fund for these works to be undertaken. Given that it is necessary to ensure that the crematorium is able to operate to maximum capacity the officers in consultation with the Chairman and our consultants Parker Torrington agreed that it was in the best interests of the crematorium to undertake these works at the present time. The works have now been completed.