

**REPORT TO: PORTCHESTER CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE –
15 DECEMBER 2014**

REPORT OF: THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

MERCURY ABATEMENT PROJECT

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To update the Joint Committee on progress towards noise reduction measures associated with the operation of the mercury abatement equipment.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Joint Committee has previously been advised of one possible solution to reduce noise emanating from the mercury abatement plant room, particularly during outside of normal operating hours. As previously reported a solution has been identified by our interim consultants (Fareham BC's Building Services) working in conjunction with acoustic engineers, Fareham Borough Council's Environmental Health Officers and a European specialist acoustic grille manufacturer.

3.0 Current Situation

- 3.1 The need for cooling in the mercury abatement plant room is a requirement of Facultative Technologies (FT): the installers of the equipment. The gases from the cremation process are in the order of 900°C and this inevitably can create a high volume of residual heat inside the building which needs to be safely dissipated. It is therefore essential to ensure that any modifications to the grilles which affect the airflow are approved by FT in order to ensure the integrity of the building, the abatement equipment and the associated control systems.
- 3.2 Our consultants are of the opinion that the suggested solution should prove acceptable and that being the case an order has been placed with the acoustic grille manufacturer. In the meantime both FT and the acoustic grille manufacturer have been asked to confirm specific airflow data. When the existing grilles have been replaced careful monitoring will take place to ensure that the new grilles work satisfactorily and do not affect the operation of the abatement equipment.
- 3.3 A letter was sent to local residents by the Clerk in June 2014 and a further letter was sent in November 2014 explaining the steps being taken to provide a permanent solution.

4.0 Recommendation

That the action taken be endorsed and the officers be authorised to continue to take any further action that may be necessary to achieve the satisfactory reduction in noise level.

Terry Garvey
Engineer and Surveyor

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