

Subject of assessment:	Cremator Refurbishment Programme			
Coverage:	Service-specific.			
This is a decision relating to:	☐ Strategy	☐ Policy	☐ Service	☐ Function
	☐ Process/procedure	☐ Programme	☒ Project	☐ Review
	☐ Organisational change	☐ Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	☐	Revision of an existing approach:	☐
It is driven by:	Legislation:	☐	Local or corporate requirements:	☒
Description:	Insert short description, using the following as sub-headings: • Key aims, objectives and activities • To refurbish and upgrade the existing cremator infrastructure at Teesside Crematorium, improving reliability, operational resilience, environmental performance and regulatory compliance through targeted investment in cremator equipment and associated infrastructure. • Statutory drivers (set out exact reference) • Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 • Cremation Regulations 2008 • Environmental Protection Act 1990 • Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order (LACO) 1977 • ICCM / FBCA guidance and codes of practice • Differences from any previous approach • Moves from a reactive maintenance approach to a planned programme of refurbishment and infrastructure investment. • Introduces operational bypass arrangements, improved emissions controls and enhanced resilience measures to support long-term service delivery. • Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) • Bereaved families • funeral directors • Bereavement Services staff, • Environmental Service • elected members • regulatory bodies • Intended outcomes. • Extended life of cremator infrastructure by at least ten years. • Improved service reliability and business continuity. • Compliance with environmental and statutory requirements. • Reduction in NOx emissions. • Reduced risk of service disruption and equipment failure. • A sustainable and resilient cremation service for the future.			

Live date:	2026
Lifespan:	7-10 years (2033 2036)
Date of next review:	Annual reviews – within 3 years (2029)

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no identified adverse impacts on individual human rights arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. The strategy is designed to enhance dignity, respect and equitable access to bereavement services for all residents, ensuring that individuals are treated with compassion during times of loss. The proposals focus on improving service quality, accessibility (including extended service provision), cultural sensitivity and environmental standards, all of which support individuals' rights to dignity, respect and non-discrimination. Evidence used to inform this assessment includes analysis of current service provision, stakeholder engagement, and consideration of diverse community needs. There are no elements within the strategy that restrict access to services or disproportionately disadvantage any group in a way that would infringe on rights protected under UK legislation, including the Human Rights Act 1998.

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no identified adverse differential impacts on individuals or groups with protected characteristics arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. The strategy has been developed to promote inclusivity, equitable access and cultural sensitivity across all bereavement services, ensuring that the needs of diverse communities are recognised and supported. Key elements of the strategy actively support equality by: • Ensuring services are accessible regardless of background, religion or income • Promoting culturally sensitive practices, including accommodating faith-based burial requirements and service preferences • Introducing extended service provision (including weekends) to better meet diverse community needs • Reviewing pricing structures to improve affordability and address funeral poverty, supporting economically disadvantaged groups The strategy aligns with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act by seeking to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups Evidence used to inform this assessment includes service reviews, stakeholder engagement, and consideration of community demographics and needs. The proposals are intended to reduce inequalities in access to bereavement services rather than create them, and no groups are expected to be disproportionately negatively impacted.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*	☒	☐	☐	Not applicable. There are no identified negative impacts on community cohesion arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. The strategy is designed to strengthen relationships across communities by promoting inclusive, culturally sensitive bereavement services that recognise and respect the diverse needs of Middlesbrough's population.
Armed Forces Could the decision impact negatively on those who are currently members of the armed forces of former members in the areas of Council delivered healthcare, compulsory education and housing policies?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no identified negative impacts on current or former members of the armed forces arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. The strategy relates specifically to bereavement service provision (cremation, burial and memorial services) and does not directly impact on Council-delivered healthcare, education or housing policies. The strategy promotes equitable and inclusive access to services for all residents, including veterans and serving personnel and their families, ensuring dignity, respect and cultural sensitivity in bereavement provision.
Care leavers Could the decision impact negatively on those who are care experienced?*	☒	☐	☐	There are no identified negative impacts on individuals who are care experienced arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. The strategy is focused on improving the quality, accessibility and inclusivity of bereavement services for all residents, including vulnerable groups.
Reducing Poverty Could the decision impact negatively on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty in the town?	☒	☐	☐	Not applicable. There are no identified negative impacts on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty arising from the Bereavement Services Strategy. Instead, the strategy includes specific measures intended to support affordability and reduce financial pressures associated with bereavement.

Screening questions	Response	Evidence
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.		

Assessment completed by:	Nicky Raine	Head of Service:	Katie Bargewell
Date:	29.07.26	Date:	29.07.26