

**Meeting date:** 30 January 2019  
**Report to:** Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities and Partnerships



**Subject/report title:** Approval for the refurbishment of the Public Toilets at Robin Hood Cemetery  
**Report from:** Head of Customer Services  
**Report author/lead contact officer:** Julie Williams, Operational Support Manager, Bereavement Services

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**Wards affected:**

All Wards |  Bickenhill |  Blythe |  Castle Bromwich |  Chelmsley Wood |  
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath |  Elmdon |  Kingshurst/Fordbridge |  Knowle |  
 Lyndon |  Meriden |  Olton |  Shirley East |  Shirley South |  
 Shirley West |  Silhill |  Smith's Wood |  St Alphege

**Public/private report:** Public

**Exempt by virtue of paragraph:** N/A

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To request approval for the refurbishment of the Public Toilets at Robin Hood Crematorium.

**2. Decision(s) recommended**

2.1 Approve the complete refurbishment of Robin Hood Public Toilets (Option 2) at an estimated cost of £15,000.

**3. What is the issue?**

3.1 Solihull Council manages three cemeteries providing bereavement services to both residents and non-residents of the Borough. These are: Robin Hood, Widney Manor and Woodlands Cemetery. Robin Hood and Woodlands Cemetery also provide Crematorium Facilities.

3.2 Robin Hood Crematorium was completely refurbished in 2017. This included extending the crematory area to provide a control room, replacement of the old cremators with new modern cremators to future proof the service and also extensive refurbishment of the outdated chapel. This work has been well received and appreciated by our stakeholders.

3.3 The public toilets are located in a separate block to the Chapel and were not refurbished at the time. The Bereavement Services Team has received a number of negative comments regarding the standard of the public toilets.

3.4 During busy periods up to 13 cremations per day are carried out at Robin Hood as well as burials, scatterings and families visiting loved ones graves and memorials, leading to the potential for a high number of visitors using the toilet facilities.

3.5 The public toilets at Robin Hood were last refurbished over 10 years ago.

#### **4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?**

4.1 The first option considered was to do nothing, however the toilets would continue to deteriorate and customers would be dis-satisfied with the standard of the facilities available to them.

4.2 The options and costs for the refurbishment of the public toilets are detailed below.

4.3 Option 1 is for a minor refurbishment replacing the existing vinyl flooring and sanitary ware. This would provide a short term solution lasting approximately 2-3 years. The estimated cost of this option is £8,400.

4.4 Option 2 provides a more robust refurbishment which includes replacing the vinyl flooring, all sanitary ware, toilet cubicles, units, heaters and covering the existing tiling. This more robust option should provide a longer term solution. The estimated cost of this option is £15,000.

#### **5. Reasons for recommending preferred option**

5.1 Officers recommend Option 2 for the complete refurbishment of the toilet block in order to bring the toilets up to the required standard. Officers believe that although the initial outlay for Option 2 is more expensive it will represent better value for money and be more sustainable.

#### **6. Implications and Considerations**

6.1 Delivery of key themes in the Council Plan:

6.1.1 How will the options/proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of the key themes in the Council Plan?

Improve Health and Wellbeing -

Managed Growth -

Build Stronger Communities -

Deliver Value -

6.2 Implications for children and young people, vulnerable groups and particular communities:

6.2.1 None as a result of this report

6.3 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.3.1 This latest report has not been reviewed by Scrutiny Board.

6.4 Financial implications:

6.4.1 Estimated costs for the two refurbishment options for the Public toilets at Robin Hood Cemetery are outlined in 4.3 and 4.4.

6.4.2 The £15,000 estimated cost of delivering the preferred option for the refurbishment of the public toilets can be accommodated within the Repair and Maintenance of Buildings revenue budget for the Bereavement Service. On-going maintenance costs for the refurbished facilities will also be met from the same budget.

6.5 Legal implications:

6.5.1 None as a result of this report The Corporate Risk management approach has been followed.

6.6 Risk implications:

6.6.1 None as a result of this report.

6.7 Statutory Equality Duty:

6.7.1 None as a result of this report

## **7. List of appendices referred to**

7.1 None

## **8. Background papers used to compile this report**

8.1 None

## **9. List of other relevant documents**

9.1 None