

COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH OCTOBER 2025

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

**VARIATION TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME –
ALDERSHOT CREMATORIUM REFURBISHMENT**

A report from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5th August 2025

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 5th August, the Cabinet considered an exempt report (copy attached as an exempt Appendix) setting out the financial position for the major refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium and requesting approval to increase capital funding allocation to enable the scheme to be completed and for services to resume at the facility.

In September 2023, the Cabinet had agreed the full business case and funding for the refurbishment of Aldershot Crematorium, [Report No. OS2312](#), with a report on capital funding to the Council in [October 2023](#). At that time, the Cabinet noted that further details of refurbishment costs would become available once a main contractor had been appointed.

At its meeting on 5th August 2025 the Cabinet noted that, as anticipated, several technical matters which had not been possible to accurately assess until the project was underway had been identified – which had adversely impacted the overall forecasted project cost. The report set out details of where costs had increased and the reasons for this. A number of these increases were disputed, and the Council had appointed specialist consultants to assist in this regard. It was noted that the Council had also faced additional costs arising from capitalised interest and unrecoverable VAT that had not been included in the original estimates.

The Cabinet (1) approved the additional funding requirement as set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513 and (2) requested that the scope of the planned audit of the project identify the factors that had led to the overspend and include a 'lessons to be learnt report' to be taken into consideration for future capital projects.

RECOMMENDATION

The Council is recommended to approve an additional capital allocation totalling the sum set out in Exempt Report No. OS2513 for the crematorium refurbishment project, over and above the £5,519,430 already agreed as part of the existing Capital Programme funded by borrowing to be factored into the 2025/26 estimates, with the 2025/26 Treasury Management and Capital Strategies being adjusted accordingly.

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