Date: 07 July 2026

Report of Action Taken:

DELEGATED DECISION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 40(A)

Crematorium Catafalque Replacement – use of Reserve Fund

Summary

- The following decision was approved via the Urgency process (SO40A): to agree to the use of Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Funds (£120K) to purchase two catafalques and associated upgrading to the current lifting mechanisms.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked:

- To note the report.

Background

The current catafalques (raised platforms in the chapel) at the City of London Crematorium in Manor Park E12 are in a poor condition and not conducive to premium service provision, particularly given that the lift mechanisms frequently break down.

It was recommended that £120K from the Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Fund (currently £1.5M) be allocated to purchase replacement equipment to mitigate the risk of equipment failure. The spend needed to take place ahead of the £2.5m CWP refurbishment project taking place over the summer.

REASON FOR URGENCY:

Procurement and planning as part of the Cyclical Works Programme (due to finish by 16 October 2026) needed to begin ahead of a new carpet being laid which was expected to take place in late June 2026 – if the decision was to have been delayed to 21 July 2026 (the next PHES meeting) then the reopening of the chapels would have been delayed, with a negative impact on income from cremations and ancillary activities.

Jayne Moore
City of London Corporation