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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 6</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2015</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STUART BATCHELOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>M ROSEBURGH (EXT. 5774) roseburghm@south-derbys.gov.uk</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CEMETERY SERVICE AND PROVISION OF CEMETERY SPACE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: N/A</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 To note progress to date in considering the cemetery service and the provision of cemetery space.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To update members on the survey undertaken to assist in the consideration of the future cemetery needs of the district. To seek direction on the next step post survey.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee initially became interested in cemetery provision due to the reduction in cemetery space in the urban core and Gresley cemetery in particular. Initial exploration was done into the availability of Council owned land but problems were encountered with size, access, legal issues, cost and alternative uses which meant nothing suitable could be found.
- 3.2 After this initial work and on the back of local intelligence from outside the urban core, Committee decided additional work was required to ascertain the scale of the issue across the whole of the district.
- 3.3 It was decided the best way to gather the required information was by an audit. To this end a survey was sent out to all Parish Councils. Follow up enquiries were also made with other bodies identified by the Parish Councils who provided burial provision within in their area. The results have now been compiled and are attached as an appendix to the report.
- 3.4 The questionnaire was broken up into sections covering site details, grave details (statistical data), burial/site costs and planning for the future.

- 3.5 The key finding for committee is that the audit confirms that whilst trends for burials nationally and locally remain static or slightly upward, in the urban core, space is running out. Other areas in the district appear reasonably well catered for but in less than a year all urban core burials will need to take place at Newhall.
- 3.6 The Committee now needs to return to its original questions regarding the cemetery service, that is, does SDDC need to provide additional cemetery space? If so, where and how would a site be financed and managed?

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 None at this stage. If there were a policy decision to actively pursue additional space then there would be financial implications related to purchase, set up and management.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 Although not a direct target or outcome the provision of new cemetery space links to the Lifestyle Choice and Value for Money themes within the Corporate Plan.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 Provision of cemetery space is a matter of some sensitivity to communities and a reduction in choice has the potential to cause local upset and adverse publicity.

#### **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The audit highlights the imminent loss of burial space at Church Gresley and prompts the requirement to consider future policy direction regarding cemetery requirements in the district.

#### **8.0 Background Papers**

- 8.1 None.