
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	25th MARCH 2015	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STUART BATCHELOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & PLANNING	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	CEMETERY SERVICE AND PROVISION OF CEMETERY SPACE	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: N/A

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 an audit being undertaken to assist in the consideration of the future cemetery needs of the district. To seek direction on priorities post audit.

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 that 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 has been sent out to all Parish Councils and a copy is attached as an appendix to the report. There is an option to complete the survey electronically. The advertised deadline for responses is March 27th. On receipt of the initial returns there will be a follow up survey to other bodies identified by the Parish Councils as operating cemeteries in their area. Once all returns are received officers will compile the results and provide a further report to committee

- 3.4 Upon receipt of the report the Committee will be able to make judgements about policy recommendations in relation to requirements across the district linked to need and with due consideration for financial and other implications.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None at this stage. Once the audit is complete then the financial implications of any policy recommendations would need to be considered.

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 will allow for consideration of cemetery requirements across the district.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.