

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	17 NOVEMBER 2022	CATEGORY:
		RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CHRISTOPHER WORMAN PARKS & GREEN SPACES MANAGER	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ADOPTION OF MEMORIAL BENCH SCHEME	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL WARDS	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee support the introduction of a Memorial Bench Scheme for District Council managed cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To standardise the style, locations and number of memorial benches available across our sites.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council manages many cemeteries, parks and green spaces across the district, none of which have a scheme dedicated to memorial benches. With the number of enquiries regarding memorial benches increasing, it has become necessary for the District Council to put into place a scheme outlining the permitted locations and the styles/types of suitable memorial benches for our parks and green spaces.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 South Derbyshire District Council understands and respects the wishes of its residents to remember loved ones through memorial seats and benches.
- 4.2 Over recent years and particularly since the start of the Covid pandemic there has been an increase in the number of enquiries regarding the installation of memorial benches on District Council managed sites.
- 4.3 Previously, where memorial benches have been permitted, the supply and installation of the benches have been undertaken by the families and their appointed contractors. This has led to a wide variety of benches on sites, some of which are more robust than others.

- 4.4 The scheme identifies 6 styles of benches and the types of sites they would be suitable for. These have been identified following research of suitable suppliers, costs and availability of supply.
- 4.5 The scheme details the process families would need to follow when looking at locating a memorial bench on a District Council managed site.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The cost for the bench, its installation and a period of regularly maintenance would be met by the families. The scheme details a breakdown of these associated costs.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 None

Legal Implications

- 6.2 There are no legal implications from the memorial bench scheme.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 This supports a number of corporate plan objectives

Our Future

Influence the improvement of infrastructure to meet the demands of growth

Our People

Deliver excellent customer service.

Our Environment

Enhance the attractiveness of South Derbyshire

Improve public spaces to create an environment for people to enjoy

Risk Impact

- 6.4 By adopting an agreed policy with a choice of standardized benches we reduce the risks of inappropriate benches being installed and the associated reputational damage that could arise.

7.0 Community Impact

- 7.1 The provision of suitable seating across our sites will improve the attractiveness of our areas.

7.1 Equality and Diversity Impact

None Known

7.2 Social Value Impact

Use of local contractors to install benches.

Helps maintain a sense of place for local residents

Adds to the existing park bench facilities for anyone to use.

7.3 Environmental Sustainability

Consideration has been given to the products being used and the suitability and expected lifespan.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 That the Committee support the introduction of the Memorial Bench Scheme to cover our cemeteries, parks and open spaces.

9.0 Background Papers

Appendix 1 Memorial Bench Scheme – Sept 2022.

Appendix 2 Overview of current distribution and state of repair of benches across sites