

7 CEMETERY HEADSTONE SAFETY (AN179-2012)

Reference is made to the on-going problem of dangerous headstones within cemeteries and to the approach taken to make such stones safe including the inspection process, identification of headstone owner and treatment of stones where no owner can be traced. In the past inspections have been undertaken by Environment Department staff and steps taken to make the headstones safe temporarily by propping the stones or laying them flat on the ground.

It is proposed to undertake a pilot scheme within the 2012/2013 programme utilising spare capacity within the Construction Division of the Environment Department to undertake the inspection testing and making safe of stones up to approximately 1.5m in height. It is intended that where possible, such headstones would be made safe on a more permanent basis. Any headstones in excess of 1.5m will be referred to the specialist contractor Vermicon who were appointed last year following competitive tender, to undertake the restoration of headstone memorials.

Committee are asked to approve the pilot utilising resources within the Construction Division of the Environment Department and agree the extension of the Vermicon contract for 2012/2013 to carry out the more limited and specialist works noted.

The Director of Corporate Services advises that the cost of these works can be met from allowances of £60,000 within the Environment Department's 2012/2013 Capital Plan for these works.