

2 CEMETERY HEADSTONE SAFETY (AN24-2018)

Reference is made to the cemetery headstone inspection and testing programme. Significant progress has been made in the last few years in both the recording and making safe headstones within cemeteries however, there is still significant work to be done.

Headstones are checked by the staff from Neighbourhood Services and any stones which require attention and are below 1.5 metres in height, are made safe by the staff. However for headstones over 1.5 metres, a specialist contract is required to make dangerous headstones safe and carry out restoration works as required.

Reference is made to Article II of the minute of meeting of this Committee of 13th November, 2017 where it was agreed to accept a tender through the Council's Procurement Team and appoint Vermicom Ltd to carry out this specialist work. The tender was for a 2 year period with an optional year and hence it is proposed to award Vermicom Ltd a further tranche of work to the maximum value of £50,000 for 2018/19.

It is also recommended that Construction Division be awarded the works for the creation of concrete plinths and associated works at Birkhill, Pitkerro Grove and Balgay cemeteries to host new memorial headstones at a total cost of £20,000.

The Committee is requested to approve these works. The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises that the total capital improvements of £70,000 can be met from allowances for Cemeteries within the Service Provision section of the General Services Capital Plan 2018-23. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by 31st March 2019.