

4 CEMETERY HEADSTONE SAFETY (AN87-2013)

Reference is made to the ongoing 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 continue the successful pilot scheme which was introduced in 2012/2013 which utilised capacity within the Construction Division of the Environment Department to undertake the inspection, testing, recording and making safe of stones up to approximately 1.5 m 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 who will be appointed using "Quick Quote" under the Council's E procurement system.

Committee are asked to approve the extension to the pilot utilising resources within the Construction Division of the Environment Department.

The Director of Corporate Services advises that the capital improvement works of £60,000 can be met through allowances within the Environment Department's Capital Plan 2013/2014.