

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 28 June 2010

REPORT ON: Cemetery Provision Progress Report

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 315-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the site investigations required for the provision of cemetery sites in the City and to seek a remit to progress the investigation works accordingly and, in particular, authorise additional site investigation works at the proposed new North East Cemetery.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

2.1 the City Engineer progress additional boreholes and reporting at the new North East Cemetery (Linlathen) as part of the planning process,

2.2 The planning application be progressed for the new North East Cemetery site;

2.3 the City Engineer advances a formal offer to undertake the works for the access road and the creation of a new cemetery and report the offer to a future committee;

2.4 the Director of Leisure and Communities is remitted to investigate the potential of a Muslim burial site to the north of Eastern Cemetery and bring back report to committee for further consideration;

2.5 the Committee notes the position regarding progress with the extension to Birkhill Cemetery.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The capital cost of the additional borehole works is £44,000 inclusive of fees. There is provision within the Leisure & Communities Capital Budget 2010/11 for this.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Reference is made to Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee of 12 January 2009 when a report outlining future cemetery provision was agreed and, in particular, the situation regarding the proposed extension to Birkhill was acknowledged while a feasibility study was agreed on the additional cemetery site to the north east of the West Pitkerro Industrial Estate.

4.2 At the time, the land to the north of the existing Eastern Cemetery was recommended for no further investigation due to potential of high value development. Since then the value of the land has reduced and there has been an approach regarding the purchase of that site for a Muslim Cemetery.

4.3 New Cemetery - North East

4.3.1 Reference is made to the Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee of 23 February

2009 when it was agreed to remit the engineers to undertake a detailed site investigation and to provide outline costs for the development of the cemetery including the access road and to submit planning applications for the proposal. The site investigations have concluded that the site, in principle, is suitable for use as a cemetery with operational practices similar to those already established at other cemetery sites across the City.

- 4.3.2. As a result of the initial desk study and trial holes, the need for additional and more extensive boreholes has been identified. This additional work will allow a quantified risk assessment of the site to be prepared and assist in satisfying the requirements of SEPA's ground protection policy for Scotland. This need has arisen as a direct result of the ground conditions encountered during the excavations. The cost of this additional work has been estimated at £44,000 inclusive of all site works, sampling, analysis, reporting and associated fees using the Unit Rate Contract for Ground Investigations approved at the 7 December 2009 City Development Committee.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee agree to these additional investigation works so that this aspect of the planning approval can be progressed.

4.4 Ground to the North of Eastern Cemetery

- 4.4.1 In terms of further updates on cemetery provision, reference is made to a request from the Muslim community for the department to consider the land to the north of Eastern Cemetery as a possible cemetery for the Muslim community.
- 4.4.2 It is recommended that this be approved, in principle, and a further report submitted to the Committee for consideration.

4.5 Extension to Birkhill Cemetery

Reference is made to item 4 of the Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee of 28 June 2010.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No issues have been identified.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
21 JUNE 2010