

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 10 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT ON: PRE-PURCHASE OF CEMETERY LAIRS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

REPORT NO: 62-2014

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for a change in the existing policy that will allow members of the public to pre-purchase burial lairs within the city's cemeteries.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that committee note the content of the report and approve this new policy.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Director of Corporate Services advises that additional income is estimated at £30,000 per annum from 2014/15. This income has been included in the Provisional Revenue Budget 2014/15 for the Environment Department.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Reference is made to Report 369-2007 to the Leisure, Art and Communities Committee of 25th June 2007, which ceased the policy of allowing the pre-purchasing of burial lairs. This was due to the pressures that existed at the time on available space within burial grounds.
- 4.2 Significant improvement has been made in the availability of burial ground space within the city following the extension to Birkhill Cemetery and the formation of the new Pitkerro Grove cemetery, which is due to be brought into use later this year. These developments will provide immediate additional burial ground within the City for at least the next 25 years with the opportunity for future extension, providing approximately 75 years capacity.
- 4.3 Given this level of future provision and the demand for the pre-purchasing of lairs by members of the public and undertakers, it is proposed to remove the current restriction on pre-purchasing lairs with effect from 1 April 2014. The ability to pre-purchase a burial lair can be very beneficial to individuals in providing a degree of certainty and peace of mind. The Committee's approval is sought to this change in policy, noting that the location of any pre-purchased lair will be determined by the Environment Department in the interest of operational efficiency.
- 4.4 The pre-purchase of lairs will be controlled in accordance with the Council's Management Rules which regulates cemeteries.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Ken Laing
Director of Environment

Gary Robertson
Head of Environmental Management

22nd January 2014