



**CABINET REPORT**

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| <b>Report Title</b> | <b>Cabinet's Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Cemeteries</b> |
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

|                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>       | 5 December 2018          |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>               | No                       |
| <b>Within Policy:</b>              | Yes                      |
| <b>Policy Document:</b>            | No                       |
| <b>Directorate:</b>                | Customer and Communities |
| <b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b> | Cllr Mike Hallam         |
| <b>Ward(s)</b>                     | Borough Wide             |

**1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 To provide a response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee's pre-decision scrutiny report on Cemeteries

**2. Recommendations**

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That Cabinet gives careful consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations detailed below:-

**2.1 Maintenance**

That a number of maintenance and safety issues are considered for action:

Some of the large trees located in the town's cemeteries that have been planted on, or outside the burial plot investigated for removal as soon as possible.

The water tanks located in the extension at Duston Cemetery are plumbed in as soon as practicable.

The trees that are obscuring the sign at the entrance to Duston Cemetery are pruned as soon as possible.

Litter and recycling bins in situ within the cemeteries are replaced with modern bins, including recycling bins, uniformed throughout all cemeteries, where appropriate.

The footpaths and roadways in Kingsthorpe Cemetery that are in need of repair, are repaired as soon as possible.

The tops of the vaults are made secure.

The sign located at the entrance to Dallington Cemetery is cleaned and fresh signage placed behind the glass cabinet.

Signs be erected in cemeteries “Dogs to be kept on a leash at all times” “Please clean up after your dog.”

All signs erected within the borough’s cemeteries are of the same style and standard as other Borough signage.

2.2 Information regarding the usage and disposal of plastic bottles in cemeteries is produced for users. The information could be included within a Regulations Guidance booklet for users of cemeteries. All Funeral Directors are provided with a copy of the booklet.

2.3 The Policies and procedures for the usage of cemeteries within the borough are tightened up and a zero tolerance approach is applied.

#### 2.4 **Amenities and Facilities**

2.4.1 Consideration is given to the issuing to Funeral Directors based in the borough of Northampton, key passes, to the chapels in Towcester Road and Kingsthorpe cemeteries.

2.4.2 The facility of the chapels at Kingsthorpe and Towcester Road cemeteries are promoted.

2.4.3 The lack of burial space is addressed and potential new sites are investigated, for example, consideration is given to re-categorising the borough owned land (currently categorised as commercial land) that edges the cemetery at Dallington as further cemetery land.

2.4.4 A feasibility study is undertaken into the requirement of a new large crematorium and cemetery for the town that offers the required services and facilities.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

#### **3.1 Report Background**

3.1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review cemeteries in the Borough, concentrating on:

Maintenance and health and safety requirements

Amenities and facilities

Financial implications

### 3.1.2 Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around amenities and facilities within the Borough's cemeteries.

## **3.2 Choices (Options)**

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3.2.1 Cabinet may choose to agree to any or all of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in full or part.

3.2.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee have provided Cabinet with a robust and detailed report to support its recommendations.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 There are no policy implications directly arising from this report

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1. There are cost implications to many of the recommended works above and in some cases, these are considerable. Further work will be undertaken by officers to scope the work and where possible identify potential sources of funding. Some of the recommendations have staffing resource implications only and these are in the process of being implemented as planned improvements.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 There are no legal implications at this stage of Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations set out in paragraph 2 of the report

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 Equality and health implications will be taken full account of in the development of the proposed recommendation.

4.4.2 There will be an equalities impact assessment undertaken as an integral part of the process.

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 A range of stakeholders were consulted with as part of the overview and scrutiny review.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 This review links to the Council's Priority Outcomes, Protecting our Environment (a clean and attractive town for residents and visitors), Working hard and spending your money wisely.

### **5. Background Papers**

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny Report – Cemeteries

**Marion Goodman Head of Customers and Communities**