

**HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Scrutiny Board**

**22 November 2016**

***Review Into the Need for New Cemetery for the Borough***  
FOR RECOMMENDATION

KEY DECISION NO

REPORT BY: Economy, Planning, Development and Prosperity Havant Scrutiny and Policy Development Panel

**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The review was established to evaluate the need to identify a site for a new cemetery for the Borough. The review would also look at the current cemetery provision and the proposal for a new cemetery at the West of Waterlooville MDA ('MDA').

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended to Cabinet that;

- 2.1 The Council continue with its current provision of cemeteries and aim to make the service financially viable;
- 2.2 The Cabinet investigate raising the fees and charges for burial sites to cover the operational costs of the service (including maintenance of cemeteries);
- 2.3 A financial analysis be carried out to investigate the costs of developing the MDA cemetery site as a whole and the costs for developing the site in stages;
- 2.4 If the decision is made to proceed with the MDA cemetery site, opportunities for private sector investment be fully investigated;
- 2.5 An update be carried out on the review of other possible sites for a cemetery within the Borough; and
- 2.6 Officers be requested to complete discussions with Grainger PLC relating to the future provision of a cemetery site arising from the MDA Development before making a decision.

**3.0 STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Council has identified financial sustainability, public service excellence and innovation as key aspects of the Corporate Strategy. The above recommendations seek to provide a burial service that is financially sustainable, continue a service for the Borough's residents and look at innovative ways to ensure this provision can be continued.

#### **4.0 LEGAL**

- 4.1 The Council has no statutory duty to provide cemeteries but where it does so, it has a duty to maintain them. As such, legacy considerations would continue beyond any decision to cease cemetery provision.

#### **5.0 RESOURCES**

- 5.1 The cemeteries service currently runs at a deficit and the above recommendations seek to make the service more financially viable. Any financial implications arising from the potential development of a new cemetery within the Borough will be detailed in future reports.
- 5.2 Development of a new cemetery would require capital investment, but would provide opportunity for the whole or partial recovery of historic maintenance costs of existing cemeteries over its lifetime.
- 5.3 It is recognised that accepting the recommendations detailed at 2.3 to 2.6 will require resources.

#### **6.0 STAKEHOLDERS**

- 6.1 The provision of cemeteries is highly likely to be an emotive area for residents and the above recommendations seek to look at a number of options to enable this service to continue in as financially viable a way as possible.

#### **7.0 RISKS**

- 7.1 There are no risks arising directly from this report and any future risks arising from further consideration of cemetery provision in the Borough will be detailed in future reports.
- 7.2 It is recognised that there could be an impact on the assured income streams to Norse South East.

#### **8.0 Key Findings**

- 8.1 The Panel considered the report from the Open Spaces Officer included in the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet to be held on 19 March 2014 on cemetery provision but was withdrawn prior to the meeting and has not been considered since (see Background Papers for previous report).

- 8.2 The Panel also considered the reports from the Environmental Services Scrutiny and Policy Development Panel from the previous scrutiny on the Borough's cemetery provision. This scrutiny review was not completed due to other urgent scrutiny projects (see Background Papers for scrutiny reports).
- 8.3 The Panel met with the Head of Environmental Services, the Head of Development, the Operations Director of NORSE and the Projects Officer (Open Spaces) for NORSE to discuss cemetery provision. The notes from this meeting are featured in the background papers to this report.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

The Future Provision of Cemeteries in the Borough of Havant – report by the Open Spaces Team Leader included in the agenda for the meeting of the Cabinet on 19 March 2014 (item was withdrawn).

Reports Relating to Incomplete Scrutiny Report – reports by the Environmental Services Scrutiny and Policy Development Panel from scrutiny review of cemetery provision (review incomplete).

Notes from Economy, Planning, Development and Prosperity Havant Scrutiny and Policy Development Panel meeting on 30 August 2016.

## **Background Papers**

[Findings Pack.pdf](#)

### **Agreed and signed off for publication by:**

**Heads of Service:** 10 November 2016  
**Head of Finance:** 14 September 2016  
**Head of Legal:** 11 November 2016

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