

EX17. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services presenting the outcome of the consultation exercise carried out on the policy development panel's recommendations in regard to bereavement services together with an update on the refurbishment of Falkirk Crematorium.

The Executive requested, on 18 March 2014 (ref EX134), a consultation on the recommendations arising from a policy development panel review of bereavement services and on issues raised by members at the meeting in regard to the maintenance of headstones.

The report summarised the responses from the subsequent consultation exercise and set out, in an appendix, recommendations in regard to the panel's original recommendations. In regard to headstone maintenance it was proposed that an inspection regime is established and that a memorial mason registration scheme is established to ensure that masons comply with the National Association of Memorial Masons' (NAMM) code of practice.

Additionally, the report set out the background to the proposed refurbishment of Falkirk Crematorium and the measures which will be put in place to minimise disruption during the estimated 12-16 week refurbishment.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) the recommendations set out in appendix 3 of the report subject to the adjustment of recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 as follows:-**
 - 2.1 that the details of headstone size and content would be required to be submitted in advance of its installation and approval would ultimately be at the discretion of the Director of the appropriate service. Whilst taking into account exceptional/unforeseen circumstances, family/history connections and any other reason, there will be a presumption that headstones will generally be of a size no larger than a height of 5ft (1524mm), width 3ft 8 inches (1117mm) and depth (thickness, excluding base stone) 5 inches (125mm)**
 - 2.2 headstones(that are drilled into the foundations) shall only be constructed of approved granite, stone or terrazzo materials;**
- (2) that officers prepare and implement a revised set of Cemetery Rules and Regulations based on the amended recommendations set out in appendix 3 of the report;**
- (3) the principle of establishing a Memorial Inspection regime of all its burial grounds;**
- (4) to establish a Memorial Mason Registration Scheme; and**
- (5) to note the proposed works to the Crematorium and that further updates will be provided as the project progresses.**

