

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: BEREAVEMENT SERVICES POLICIES & SERVICE STANDARDS  
(INCLUDING CEMETERIES CAPACITY)**  
**To: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 29 July 2013**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Council considered a report relating to the remaining capacity of its 9 operational cemeteries on 26 June 2013. The report alerted council to the depletion of available burial space in council cemeteries and the need to develop extensions to current cemeteries and/or new cemeteries.
- 1.2 Council approved the policy of temporarily ceasing the advanced purchase of burial lairs, at all sites where demand causes the cemetery to have less than 10 years remaining capacity (at the prevailing rate of advanced lair purchases).
- 1.3 Council also recognised the limited remaining capacity of currently active cemeteries and the intent to search for, secure and develop suitable sites, which may take up to 10 years depending upon location and circumstances.
- 1.4 Whilst Council agreed to adopt the new policy of temporary cessation of advanced lair purchases, it did so in the recognition of the need to refer the longer term approach to the provision of cemetery space to the Executive. The Council decision then was to ask the Executive to set up a Policy Development Panel, to develop this issue and other policies covering the council's cemeteries and crematoria.
- 1.5 It is expected that the Policy Development Panel would develop and scrutinise draft policies, which will be proposed in order to address a number of issues relating to cemeteries. These would include needed projects to acquire and develop land to provide additional burial space, cemetery rules (e.g. headstone size and other practices), and other policy requirements deemed necessary by the Policy Development Panel. In addition there are a range of issues affecting the council's future crematoria provision and the need to review associated policies.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Executive approve the setting up of a Policy Development Panel to develop policies covering the council's cemeteries and crematoria.
- 2.2 Members are asked to consider the size and composition of the Policy Development Panel.

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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

Date: 8 July 2013

Ref: AAP0713

Contact Name: John Paterson, Head of Operational Services

**LIST OF BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Council Report 26 June 2013, Subject Cemeteries Capacity.