

## POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Environment and Community Panel		
DATE:	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025		
TITLE:	Cemeteries Provision		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Operational		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Lauren Steele - Democratic Services Officer		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	Yes – recommendations from the Environment and Community Panel will need to be submitted to Cabinet

### **REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
<p>This report sets out options available to the Panel to deal with a request from Cabinet to formulate recommendations on the future cemetery provision for Cabinet to consider.</p>
BACKGROUND:
<p>On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, the Environment and Community Panel considered the original Cabinet Report on the Cemetery provision. The Panel's recommendations to Cabinet were that they did not support Recommendation 1 in the report, however the Panel did not formulate a counter recommendation for Cabinet to consider.</p> <p>At the Cabinet meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, the Cabinet deferred consideration of the report and referred the matter back to the Environment and Community Panel requesting that it undertake further scrutiny and formulate recommendations to be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>A copy of the Cabinet report is attached.</p>
KEY ISSUES:
<p>Members are directed to the attached Cabinet Report for further detail of the key issues.</p>
OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED:
<p>The Panel can deal with the request from Cabinet in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the Panel considers the matter to be straightforward, it could formulate a counter recommendation at this meeting for onward submission to Cabinet.</li> <li>2. The Panel could establish an Informal Working Group to consider the request from Cabinet. Arrangements for an Informal Working Group are suggested below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Terms of Reference: "To consider the request from Cabinet to undertake further Scrutiny of the Cemeteries Provision Cabinet Report and formulate recommendations for Cabinet to consider."</li> <li>- Suggestion of approximately five Members to sit on the Informal Working Group, with Membership to be agreed by the Environment and Community Panel at this meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

- The Informal Working Group to hold meetings as follows:
- Meeting 1 – Receive evidence and information from the relevant officers and Portfolio Holder. The Informal Working Group can also bring in external organisations as required.
- Meeting 2 – The Informal Working Group to formulate their recommendations to present back to the Environment and Community Panel for onward submission to Cabinet.
- The Informal Working Group to present their findings to the Environment and Community Panel at their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for onward submission to Cabinet.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Panel either:

1. Formulate a counter recommendation at this meeting to be submitted back to Cabinet
- or
1. Establish an Informal Working Group and agree its Terms of Reference and Membership.
  2. Task the Informal Working Group with undertaking further scrutiny, engaging with relevant officers, the Portfolio Holder and external stakeholders as appropriate.
  3. Require the Informal Working Group to report back to the Panel in January 2026 with draft recommendations for onward submission to Cabinet.

#### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To allow sufficient time for detailed scrutiny of the issues, including input from officers, the Portfolio Holder and other relevant stakeholders and to ensure that Cabinet receives clear, evidence-based recommendations from the Panel.