



Decision to be taken on or after 3 September 2013

Ward: Offington

Key Decision: Yes/ No

Proposed Extension to Durrington Cemetery

Report by the Executive Head of Technical Services

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member's approval to vire funds from within his Capital Portfolio to cover the cost of a Tier 2 Soil Assessment of the South West Corner of the Durrington Cemetery (the proposed extension area)
- 1.2 This assessment is a requirement of the Environment Agency as the site is situated in a groundwater Source Protection Zone 2 (SPZ2) and is close to SPZ1 for Broadwater. It is essential therefore to establish the fluctuation in ground water levels, soil porosities and the potential of groundwater pollution prior to progressing further with the design of the scheme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In March 2013 consultants were commissioned to carry out initial concept designs and feasibility for extending the Cemetery. This report highlighted the necessity for a Tier 2 assessment and the issues with regards to SPZ2. The assessment will cost in the region of £40,000.00 including fees.
- 2.2 The current projections based upon the Parks Section's records indicate that the present burial space available within the Cemetery will reach full capacity by December 2015. A Tier 2 assessment requires 12 months of monitoring consequently it is crucial if the Council wishes to continue with burials at this site after 2015 that this work is commissioned quickly as it is fundamental to the successful progression of the scheme.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 Officers are investigating the best way to progress this work either to submit a capital scheme bid or alternatively look at an "Invest To Save" scheme. Either option would still require a Tier 2 assessment.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 s 1 Localism Act 2011 and s 111 Local Government Act 1972 provide that the Council shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions.
- 4.2 s 1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 allows the Council to enter into a contract in relation to any of its functions.
- 4.3 s 214 Local Government Act 1972 provides the power to be a burial authority.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The current capital budget for this scheme which covered the initial investigations 58213-6025-526415 has a balance of £3000.00. A Tier 2 assessment will cost in the region of £40,000.00 including fees.
- 5.2 It is proposed that a virement to meet the shortfall of £37,000.00 is made to this budget from the capital budget for Tennis Court Refurbishment 58022-6015-526424 this work is currently on hold awaiting the outcome of the Parks Strategy.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 **The Cabinet Member for Environment is recommended to approve the virement in order that this project can progress subject to a successful Capital or “Invest to Save” bid.**

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

1.1 Protecting front line services.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

2.1 Provide safe customer driven cost effective services and operating environments.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

3.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

4.0 Equality Issues

4.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

5.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

6.0 Human Rights Issues

6.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

7.1 The reputation of the Cemeteries and Crematorium Service will suffer if the ashes and interment plots are not available at Durrington Cemetery.

8.0 Consultations

8.1 Consultation between all appropriate services and service managers has been undertaken.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 Matter considered and no issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 All procurement will be in accordance with Councils Standing Orders.

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 Matter considered and no issues identified