

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration

Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee:
5 February 2014

Subject: Cemeteries Upgrade Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval to proceed with the development of a new Dumbarton Cemetery and upgrade of Vale of Leven, Kilmarnock and North Dalnottar cemeteries.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council has a statutory duty to provide adequate burial provision throughout the district.
- 2.2** It is recommended that the Committee agree to proceed with the procurement and appointment of a main contractor to deliver the development of a new Dumbarton Cemetery and to deliver cemetery improvements at Vale of Leven, Kilmarnock and North Dalnottar Cemeteries, utilising the capital budget currently provided within the 10 year capital plan.

3. Background

- 3.1** The existing Dumbarton cemetery is approaching its capacity, with only two years of new lairs available for purchase.

West Dunbartonshire Council purchased a 2.07 hectare site off Garshake Road during 2005 to ensure a sustainable burial environment for the residents of Dumbarton.

- 3.2** The existing Vale of Leven Cemetery has three years of lair capacity remaining. An options appraisal has identified a preferred site to extend the cemetery, and negotiations with the landowner are on-going. Infrastructure Work will require to be carried out in preparation for the extension.
- 3.3** Kilmarnock Cemetery has approx. three years of lair capacity remaining. An adjacent field was purchased in 2011 and will be developed to provide a long term burial environment.
- 3.4** North Dalnottar has three years of lair capacity available within the serviced area of the Cemetery. Work to improve the infrastructure of the remaining section of the Cemetery is required to provide a long term solution to the burial capacity.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The development of the new Dumbarton Cemetery will provide 520 adult burial lairs, 30 children's lairs, 98 cremated remains lairs and two memorial gardens. Within the site, 34 parking spaces will be provided together with 6 additional disabled parking bays. This will allow for the provision of approx. 30 years' worth of new lairs. The new facility has been designed in such a way that future extensions will require minimal development costs. Work to develop the new Cemetery is scheduled to be completed by February 2015.
- 4.2** Planning consent for the development of the new cemetery was agreed at the Planning Committee meeting of 27 November 2013.
- 4.3** A full design package has been developed to allow for the procurement of a main contractor to deliver the new facility.
- 4.4** The work to improve the infrastructure at the other three sites will be designed and implemented over the next two financial years.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** The new and extended cemeteries will be maintained by staff currently employed within the existing facilities.
- 5.2** The location of the new Cemetery has been chosen to ensure that the new facility is located close to the community that it serves.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1** The projects have been included in the 10 year capital plan agreed by Council in 2013. The sum of £650k has been allocated to the Vale of Leven extension, £300k has been allocated for new Dalnottar extension and £225K has been allocated for Kilmarnock.
- 6.2** The Dumbarton project has been fully costed. A budget of £1.4 million will deliver the new Dumbarton Cemetery.
- 6.3** Given that it is anticipated that the existing sites will require a reduced level of maintenance, the maintenance of the new facilities will be met from existing revenue budgets.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council if these project are not delivered, leaving West Dunbartonshire without a sustainable burial environment.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** A full Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out for this project. As a result design changes were implemented to provide additional disabled car parking and to extend the footpath with a non-slip surface and handrail on Garshake Road.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** The Proposal of Application Consultation (PAC) relating to the new Dumbarton Cemetery has been undertaken utilising a variety of community engagement mechanisms including:

- Presentation at Ordinary Meeting of Dumbarton East and Central Community Council on 29 May 2013.
- Presentation at Ordinary Meeting of Silvertoun and Overtoun Community Council on 13 June 2013.
- Public Exhibition in Council Offices Foyer, Garshake Road, Dumbarton from Monday 17 June to Friday 21 June 2013.
- Public Exhibition in Dumbarton Library from Monday 24 June to Saturday 29 June 2013.
- Pre Application Notice in local press on 11 June 2013.
- Consultation promoted on Council's website, facebook and twitter sites.
- Survey monkey questionnaire on West Dunbartonshire Council's website.
- FREEPOST address for written comments.
- Greenspace email address for electronic responses.
- Letters and associated plans hand delivered to residents in neighbouring streets advising of consultation and methods of participation.
- Letters and associated plans sent to equalities groups advising of consultation and methods of participation.

- 9.2** Based on comments received the following changes to the scheme have been made.

- Number of car parking spaces within the cemetery has been increased and a turning circle incorporated in the road layout.
- Non slip footpath and handrail to be installed at Garshake Road.

- Proposed footpath along the back of houses on Garshake Avenue removed from plan.
- Tarmac to be used on pathways to avoid other materials such as whin being washed away.
- Landscaping will include low maintenance trees and shrubs, including perfumed specimens for the blind.

10. Strategic Assessment

- 10.1** The development of improved Cemetery provision meets the strategic objectives of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Richard Cairns
Executive Director of Infrastructure and Regeneration
Date: 16 December 2013

Person to Contact: Ronald Dinnie, Head of Neighbourhood Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU, telephone No.: 01389 737601, e-mail: ronald.dinnie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All