

## **Environment Select Committee**

### **Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 16 October 2007**

#### **Cemeteries and Memorials – Phase 2 - The Management of Memorials**

##### **Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)**

The following activities have taken place:

- a site visit to Durham Road Cemetery where Members had a demonstration of memorial safety testing by MemSafe
- a press release was issued with photo opportunity and meetings with the press on the day of the site visit. Following this, there was significant press coverage in the D&S Times, the Northern Echo and the Evening Gazette
- a comprehensive background information pack supplied to all members of the committee
- the Committee have taken evidence from the service, Care for Your Area, Funeral Directors and Memorials Masons at two meetings of the Select Committee
- a members' survey was issued
- letters have been sent to churches and faith groups seeking their views.
- a visit to Carlisle (a best practice Authority) took place on 3 October
- a mid review "tri partite" meeting was held on 29 August 2007 to update the Cabinet Member with progress
- consultation with cemetery users at Durham Road, Oxbridge and Thornaby Cemeteries has also taken place and to date over 50 questionnaires have been completed/returned

##### **Timescale for Review**

This phase of the Cemeteries and Memorials review is due to report to Cabinet in November 2007.

##### **Monitoring**

The Committee have received an action plan setting out how the phase 1 recommendations will be implemented and are due to receive a report on progress in December 2007.