

**APPENDIX 1**  
**PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Burial Provision**

<b>SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE</b>	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Burial Provision</b>
<b>Link Officer/s:</b>	<b>Dale Rowbotham</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>September 2021</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<p><b>That a new burial site be provided that would meet the following criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Located in the central or western areas of the Borough</b></li> <li>• <b>Provision for more than 100 years</b></li> <li>• <b>Accessible via public transport</b></li> <li>• <b>Preferably land already owned by Stockton Borough Council</b></li> </ul>
Responsibility:	Community Services and Transport / Place Development
Date:	September 2021
Agreed Action:	Confirmation of what the site will need to deliver. Necessary to confirm an indicative land quantum required.
Agreed Success Measure:	Confirmation of site requirements and respective land quantum.
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	Initial work has been undertaken to confirm the site requirements of Community Services, Environment and Culture and how the 7ha figure was arrived at to provide a 100 years provision.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<p><b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b></p> <p>Whilst this has been achieved it is noted that many elements will influence land quantum required including life expectancy, population growth and personal preferences, site constraints and other aspects such as any changes to regulations.</p> <p>It is recommended that this aspect be revisited at future stages and recommendations made as appropriate.</p>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	

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Responsibility:	Place Development
Date:	October 2021
Agreed Action:	Review of Council owned land to identify potentially suitable options.
Agreed Success Measure:	Completion of review of Council land and ideally identification of suitable option(s).
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	Review of Council owed land has been completed by Inclusive Growth and Development and it was identified that there were no suitable options.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	Necessity to consider private land
Responsibility:	Place Development
Date:	November 2021
Agreed Action:	Review of private land to identify potentially suitable options.
Agreed Success Measure:	Completion of review and ideally identification of suitable option(s).
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	Review of private land has been undertaken and a handful of potentially suitable options were identified and are being further investigated
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	
Responsibility:	Place Development / Property and Valuation / RICS Surveyor
Date:	February 2022
Agreed Action:	Landowner discussions – initial non-committal enquiries to ascertain whether landowner would be amenable to sell and for what price.
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of suitable option(s).
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	An independent surveyor with expertise in rural estates has been engaged to act on behalf of the local authority and to enter into negotiations with the landowners on our behalf. This has been targeted on the sites considered to be most feasible. We are awaiting responses from landowners and their agents.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>

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Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	Whilst a delay has occurred this is owing to external factors.
<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	<b>That officers undertake further surveys and investigations into potential sites to determine if they are suitable for burial provision.</b>
Responsibility:	Place Development
Date:	March 2022
Agreed Action:	Identification of capital and revenue funding.
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of capital and revenue funding.
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	Whilst indicative costs have been identified for the project this will need to be considered further as the project progresses. At the current time no provision has been made within the MTFP.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	
Responsibility:	Relevant experts
Date:	April 2022
Agreed Action:	Review of work undertaken under recommendation 1.
Agreed Success Measure:	Confirmation that a robust assessment has been undertaken.
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	A private consultancy firm specialising in Cemetery Management and Design were engaged to review those sites considered most feasible. The work by the specialist consultancy firm identified that there were no overriding showstoppers, from a desktop perspective, and recommended site investigations to confirm this.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	

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Responsibility:	Relevant experts
Date:	May 2022 (subject to landowner agreement)
Agreed Action:	Necessary surveys of sites identified as suitable option(s). Council and private land as relevant.
Agreed Success Measure:	Identification of suitable option(s).
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	Cannot proceed until responses have been received from landowners and their agents.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	Whilst a delay has occurred this is owing to external factors.

<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	<b>That consideration is given to an additional, smaller burial site in the south of the Borough and that officers consult with the appropriate Ward Members and Town and Parish Councils to determine if this can be facilitated through collaboration.</b>
Responsibility:	Community Services and Transport / Place Development
Date:	Ongoing
Agreed Action:	Continue to engage with Ward Members and Town and Parish Councils to support them as required.
Agreed Success Measure:	Continued engagement and identification of a suitable option(s).
Evidence of Progress (September 2022):	A number of discussions have occurred with Town and Parish Councils on burial requirements and advice offered. Continue to offer support in discussing requirements.
Assessment of Progress (September 2022): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	

<b>Assessment of Progress Gradings:</b>	<b>1</b> Fully Achieved	<b>2</b> On-Track	<b>3</b> Slipped	<b>4</b> Not Achieved
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