APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Faith and Muslim Burials

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	**Faith and Muslim Burials**
Link Officer/s:	**Dale Rowbotham and Darren Robinson**
Action Plan Agreed:	**February 2026**

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.

Recommendation 1:	To extend choice within the Borough's burial provision, a minimum of 10 concrete burial rings with the appropriate drainage are installed in the Muslim section of Thornaby cemetery. This should be an optional offer at an additional cost to those purchasing the plot. The number of burial rings installed may be extended if there is a greater demand for pre-purchasing these.
Responsibility:	Darren Robinson
Date:	01/09/2026
Agreed Action:	Funeral Directors to be notified of the new offer and prices. Area in Thornaby Cemetery to be identified for the rings to be installed. Rings to be ordered and installed
Agreed Success Measure:	Rings purchased by members of the Muslim community. An area in LL section of Thornaby specified for the Muslim faith has been identified where the rings will be installed. Installation of rings
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Funeral Directors have been contacted. No positive response from NE Muslim Funerals. Thornaby Funerals confirmed they would not be publicising the offer but would support a customer who wished to purchase a plot with a concrete ring if requested. Rings have not been purchased due to lack of interest in pre purchases. Offer has been put on Schedule of Prices.
Assessment of Progress	3 – Slipped

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(October 2026): (include explanation if required)	Offer is open but not been taken up.
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	No interest in pre purchase of concrete rings to date.

Recommendation 2:	Officers carry out a further review of the operational feasibility of extending burial hours.
Responsibility:	Darren Robinson
Date:	01/03/2026
Agreed Action:	Internally review feasibility of extending operating hours for burials
Agreed Success Measure:	Feedback and final review
Evidence of Progress (October 2026):	Out of hours funerals on weekdays are covered by overtime and are completed on a by request basis. Low number of out of hours funerals are currently successfully met with existing overtime arrangements.
Assessment of Progress (October 2026): (include explanation if required)	1 Fully achieved. Feasibility of extending arrangements has been reviewed and found not to be necessary as existing overtime arrangements provide operational capacity for burials out of hours.
Evidence of Impact (October 2026):	Existing arrangements have met demand.

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	**1** Fully Achieved	**2** On-Track	**3** Slipped	**4** Not Achieved