

**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:	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>
Evidence of Impact (September 2022):	Whilst a delay has occurred this is owing to external factors.
Evidence of Progress (January 2024):	Discussions have been continuing with landowners via our third independent agent. Further discussions would proceed following confirmation of the suitability of sites.
Assessment of Progress	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>

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(January 2024): (include explanation if required)	
Evidence of Impact (January 2024):	Delays have occurred owing to necessity for on-going liaison with landowners and related legal matters associated with the complex land and property matters which have delayed the ability to progress site investigations.

<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):	
Evidence of Progress (January 2024):	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 (January 2024): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
Evidence of Impact (January 2024):	
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).

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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.
Evidence of Progress (January 2024):	Ongoing dialogue has occurred with landowners to help facilitate site surveys to confirm the suitability of sites. Whilst progress is being made this has been delayed owing to the current use of sites and the complexity of land and property matters.
Assessment of Progress (January 2024): (include explanation if required)	<b>3 (Slipped)</b>
Evidence of Impact (January 2024):	Whilst a delay has occurred this is owing to external factors, and we are hopeful that these can be resolved to allow required surveys to proceed.

<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):	
Evidence of Progress (January 2024):	Discussions have taken place with Town and Parish Councils and officers from Regeneration and Legal. This will continue when land is identified.

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Assessment of Progress (January 2024): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (January 2024):	

<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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