

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2024

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

## IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC SUGGESTION – MUSLIM AND FAITH BURIAL PROVISION

### SUMMARY

The report presents a topic proposal of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision for the 2024/25 scrutiny work programme for consideration and approval by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee is asked to approve the proposal for addition to the Work Programme for 2024/25.

### WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

1. At the March 2024 meeting, Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed the work programme for 2024/25. The agreed programme focusses on supporting the Council's Powering Our Futures Programme, by undertaking transformation and regeneration reviews.
2. A topic suggestion has now been received requesting an in-depth review of Muslim and Faith Burial Provision, attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. The topic suggestion acknowledges that there was a previous review of burial provision in 2020/21. The scope of the previous review focussed on burial capacity rather than the type of burial offered. This new topic suggestion requests that further investigation take place into the provision of burial tombs/vaults in the Boroughs cemeteries.
4. The topic suggestion has been shared with the Service Manager for the relevant service, who has confirmed that there is a need to consider the burial provision offered to residents in the borough.
5. Under the Pick Scoring System, the topic receives a high score when compared with other topics submitted in previous years. It should be stressed that the score is a tool to aid prioritisation and is not binding in any way. The scoring assessment is a matter for Members to determine. The scores are set out below:

Public Interest 2

Impact 2

Council Efficiency and Performance 2

Keep in context 3

Council Plan Priority 2

Outcome 3

**Total 14**

6. If agreed by Executive Scrutiny Committee, it would be appropriate to add this to the work programme for Place Select Committee to complete. The Place Select Committee are currently undertaking a review of Affordable Housing. Due to operational demands relating to implementing changes to waste and recycling, this review would not be able to start until March/April 2025. If agreed, the topic would roll forward as the first topic for the next municipal year.

## CONSULTATION

7. Prior to setting the current year's work programme, all Councillors were asked to advise of any urgent matter that they felt should be reviewed in 2024/25 alongside the proposed Powering our Futures / transformation work.

## FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

9. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

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Background Papers: None  
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific  
Property Implications: None