

**CENTRAL DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2005**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**QUEENS CROSS CEMETERY - VANDALISM AND SECURITY**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Committee on action that has been taken following public concern relating to vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the cemetery at Queens Cross.

**BACKGROUND**

2. At the Central Dudley Area Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, a petition was submitted by cemetery visitors/relatives who were concerned about the amount of vandalism in Queens Cross Cemetery and specific incidents of anti-social behaviour.
3. This issue was also raised in the Public Forum, prompting the Committee to request an urgent investigation and a report to be submitted to the next Committee meeting.
4. The Assistant Director responsible for Culture and Community Services subsequently held a meeting with representatives acting on behalf of cemetery visitors/relatives prompting an on-site investigation to determine effective solutions to the problems highlighted.
5. Further work is now being undertaken by officers in relation to the key issues identified:
  - Improved security at the perimeter
  - Unaccompanied children within the site
  - Control of dogs on the site
  - Drug dealing/drug addicts in the cemetery
  - Maintenance issues
6. Working within the resources available, an incremental approach is being taken in relation to identified remedial action, starting with improvements to the perimeter fence. It is hoped that if the perimeter can be made reasonably secure a number of secondary issues may be resolved alongside actions from partner organisations such as the Police.

**FINANCE**

7. Any remedial action associated with the cemetery will be funded from the Directorates 2005/06 Revenue Budget.

## **LAW**

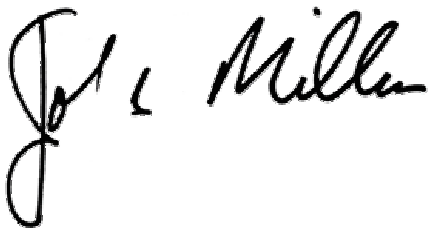
8. The Council's powers to manage and improve cemeteries are contained in a variety of legislation, including Section 214 and Schedule 26 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Cemeteries Order 1977.
9. Article 3 of the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 expressly empowers burial authorities to do all such things, as they consider necessary or desirable for the proper management, regulation and control of a cemetery.
10. By Section 4 of the Cremation Act 1902, the powers of a burial authority to provide and maintain burial grounds or cemeteries, or anything essential, ancillary or incidental thereto, shall be deemed to extend to and include the provision of crematoria.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT**

11. The proposals within this report take into account the Council's equal opportunities policies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

12. It is proposed that Committee considers and notes the contents of this report.



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## **Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-**

1. Petition from Cemetery Visitors/Relatives
2. Written response to first signatory on the above petition