

## Review of Cemetery Regulations and the Introduction of a Medical Examiner: Policy Review recommendations 2014/15

Review Progress Summary				
R = not on schedule	A = on schedule	B = undeliverable	G = achieved	Total
0	7	0	0	7

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Timescale	RAG	Progress
<b>A</b>	That a review be undertaken of the council's Cemetery Regulations. Revised regulations to be further considered and agreed by Members.	Establish contact in the Legal Section and agree terms of the regulation review. Continue to work with colleague in the Legal Section to form new regulations.	Karen Lounton	March 2016	<b>A</b>	Initial meetings have been held with colleagues in legal services in order to consider the terms, scope and timetable of the review of the existing Cemetery Regulations. These meetings will continue over the coming months though there is the possibility that staffing and resource issues could result in slippage in the timescale for implementation.
<b>B</b>	That the cemetery regulation review clearly outlines provisions relating to authorised and unauthorised kerb-sets in cemeteries. On completion of the review, a clear overall policy is formed in relation to unauthorised kerb-sets, which sets out the council position regarding retrospective unauthorised kerb-set as well as any future installations.	As part of the Cemetery Regulation review and in conjunction with colleagues from the Legal Section, produce a clear policy statement relating to authorised and unauthorised kerb-sets in the city's cemeteries.	Karen Lounton	March 2016	<b>A</b>	Future joint meetings with legal services will include work to draft of a clear policy statement relating to authorised and unauthorised kerb sets in cemeteries. Again, staffing and resource issues could possibly lead to some slippage in the completion date and members will be informed if this is the case.

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<b>C</b>	That given the sensitivity of the issues involved in the review, a consultation plan be established involving the council website and engagement with key stakeholders.	<p>Consultation process to commence in July 2015 where Funeral Directors, Clergy and Memorial Masons will be consulted as part of the twice yearly Bereavement Services Stakeholder meeting.</p> <p>E-consultation strategy to be formulated following on from this meeting.</p>	Karen Lounton	January 2016	<b>A</b>	A consultation plan is under preparation up involving stakeholders. E Consultation Strategy currently being formulated.
<b>D</b>	That officers investigate the possibility of establishing 'friends of' groups to become actively involved with ground maintenance and local history issues at some of the older sections across the ten cemeteries in the city.	Bereavement Services to meet with Sunderland Antiquarian Society to discuss the 'friends of' group concept and establish interest.	Karen Lounton	January 2016	<b>A</b>	Initial discussions have been held to develop the concept of "friends of groups".
<b>E</b>	That on receiving confirmation that the Medical Examiner Service is to be implemented, the council continue to work with partners to prepare for the introduction of the Medical	That the Bereavement & Registration Services Manager remain aware of central government developments regarding the Medical Examiner project and take appropriate	Karen Lounton	March 2016	<b>A</b>	There has been no further announcement by the Government regarding the proposed introduction of a Medical Examiners Service.

	Examiners Service.	action when necessary.				The situation will continue to be monitored and plans are in place for implementation should they be required.
<b>F</b>	That when implementation is confirmed, the financial implications of introducing the Medical Examiner be examined in more detail including the options for the funding of the service.	See above.	Karen Lounton	March 2016	<b>A</b>	<p>There has been no further announcement by the Government regarding the proposed introduction of a Medical Examiners Service.</p> <p>The situation will continue to be monitored and plans are in place for implementation should they be required.</p>
<b>G</b>	That consideration of future funding options takes into account the sensitive nature of the service and potential issues of affordability.	See above.	Karen Lounton	March 2016	<b>A</b>	<p>There has been no further announcement by the Government regarding the proposed introduction of a Medical Examiners Service.</p> <p>The situation will continue to be monitored and plans are in place for implementation should they be required.</p>