

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

<b>To:</b> ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	<b>Subject:</b> NATIONAL EMERGENCY MORTUARY ARRANGEMENTS	
<b>From:</b> HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES		
<b>Date:</b> 12 August 2014	<b>Ref:</b> GC/56	

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval of a NEMA (National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements) site in North Lanarkshire.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a duty on Local Authorities to prepare for and to be able to respond to major emergencies. North Lanarkshire Council has a Civil Contingency Plan which details arrangements for dealing with civil and major emergencies and reference is made in the plan regarding NEMA sites.
- 2.2 One of the key issues in the Contingency Planning process is that there must be adequate provision for the temporary storage of bodies and any body parts in the event of an unforeseen major emergency arising from an accident or perhaps a hostile act such as terrorism.
- 2.3 Given the need for prompt action and the fact that it is clearly unknown when, if ever, such an event may occur, NEMA sites must be available for use and arrangements require to be in place in order to ensure that appropriate procedures can be quickly initiated and operational without undue delay.
- 2.4 North Lanarkshire Council is one of 12 Local Authorities in the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoSRRP) area and there are currently 2 NEMA sites which is considered to be adequate for Contingency Planning purposes.
- 2.5 One is at Glasgow Green and the other is in North Lanarkshire at Bellshill Academy playing fields. However, the Council has recently approved a proposal by the Active Bellshill Community Group to develop the Academy playing fields site for various sports uses including the provision of a sports hub, hence the need to find an alternative option.

**3. Proposals / Considerations**

- 3.1 A desktop exercise has been undertaken to assess the suitability of several other potential sites using the following criteria which have to be applied in identifying suitable sites –
- Site dimensions – minimum footprint of 168m x 141m
  - Environmental issues – no flooding issues, not of special scientific interest and not in a conservation area etc.

- Access – must be suitable for HGVs
- Gradient – site must be reasonably flat
- Drainage – must be access to a public foul sewer
- Services – must be a water and electrical supply on site or nearby
- Security – ability to secure the perimeter of the site
- Marshalling area – must be adjacent or nearby to site to regroup up to 15 HGVs
- Site details - maps/drawings must be available including displaying location of services
- Planning – confirmation has to be given that the Planning Dept. has been informed regarding the proposed emergency usage of the site

3.2 The desktop exercise confirmed that Beltane Playing Fields, Wishaw, met all of the necessary criteria. A site visit was subsequently made by North Lanarkshire Council staff to confirm that the site met all of the criteria for NEMA purposes.

3.3 Subject to committee approval, it is proposed to notify the Scottish Government of the position and recommend that Wishaw Playing Fields is approved as an alternative NEMA site to Bellshill Playing Fields. This process will involve the submission of relevant technical information followed by a site visit by Government officials along with representatives from Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) who are experts in this field and are the company contracted by the Government to deploy the necessary structures and equipment required for a NEMA site following an emergency incident.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

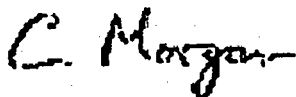
4.1 There are no financial implications relevant to this report.

#### **5. Corporate Considerations**

5.1 The recommendations are consistent with policy and there are no personnel, legal or property implications in the report.

#### **6. Recommendations**

6.1 That Members approve the proposed NEMA site to be used in the event of a major emergency.



**C MORGAN  
HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES**