

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: CEMETERIES SERVICE – BURIAL SPACE NEEDS
From: ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 26 April 2016	Ref: KW/KF

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report updates committee on provision of burial space across North Lanarkshire and recommends securing sufficient burial space on a community basis for the next 20 years.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 North Lanarkshire Council is required under the terms of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855 to provide facilities for the burial of the dead.

2.2 Committee approved a report on burial space needs in January 2005, which set out an outline plan for the short to medium term. A further update report was considered in November 2007 and March 2010 and January 2014. Appendix 1 contains an updated schedule of new lair provision.

2.3 The capital programme has funded the development of burial space in past years and it is planned that this mechanism be used for future years.

3. PRESENT POSITION

3.1 Appendix 1 shows that long term provision of new lair space is adequate in the north with space provided by Kilsyth and Eastfield cemeteries. Progress has been made in securing the ground adjacent to Bedlay cemetery, a section 75 agreement is in place which will enable the privately owned adjacent site to transfer to council ownership at the time that surrounding development commences. The cemetery extension has been designed and funding is in place. Planning permission is being sought to allow this development to proceed, however, the timing of the start of the cemetery extension construction is dictated by the private developer starting at their site. It would be advisable to secure ground to the east of Eastfield cemetery as an extension, however, ground conditions in this general area are problematic and may be unsuitable as burial space.

3.2 There is medium term provision in the centre with space provided by New Monklands and Coltswood cemeteries. Work has been undertaken to assess the options available to extend New Monklands cemetery for the communities of Airdrie and outlying villages. This indicates that the ground immediately adjacent to the cemetery on the northern boundary may be problematic because of ground conditions but may be developable. Part of this area is privately owned and an option to swap this area with the adjacent council owned area is being explored. It would be advisable to secure the open space area, including the pitch to the west of Coltswood cemetery as an extension to the cemetery and plan for the development given the projected date when new lairs cease to be available.

- 3.3 There is medium term provision in the south with space provided at Bothwellhaugh, Cambusnethan and Benhar cemeteries; however, there is need to secure burial space for the Wishaw community given the projected date when new lairs cease to be available for Cambusnethan cemetery. The land to the north of Benhar cemetery could be secured for future expansion.
- 3.4 The Islamic Education Trust Cumbernauld made a request during 2010 that burial space be created in Eastfield cemetery to serve the Muslim community in Cumbernauld. The burial area became operational in Autumn 2015. The projected run out date for new lairs is significantly longer in this ethnic area due to the low number of interments. This is expected to increase slowly. Provision at Eastfield is unique because the orientation of lairs is different from the Christian lairs due to the request being made to develop such space after the majority of the area had been developed. Furthermore, there is only depth for one interment in these lairs due to ground conditions. There is provision made within Cambusnethan cemetery, Wishaw for Muslim burial and the projected run out date for new lairs is significantly longer than the Christian part of the cemetery.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funds have been secured from the capital programme for the development of burial space at Bedlay cemetery.
- 4.2 Funds will be required and requested from the capital programme fund to undertake ground investigation works as part of the process of identifying a suitable site for the creation of a new cemetery for the Wishaw community and for the development of the facility.
- 4.3 Funds will be required and requested from the capital programme fund to undertake further ground investigation works at New Monklands cemetery.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That committee note the existing provision of new lairs.
- 5.2 That committee note the need to secure additional burial space adjacent to New Monklands cemetery.
- 5.3 That committee note the need to secure land and develop a replacement for Cambusnethan cemetery.
- 5.4 That committee agree to secure additional burial space to the west of Coltswood cemetery.
- 5.5 That committee agree to the service securing the open space to the north of Benhar cemetery as burial ground.
- 5.6 That committee agree to the service securing the open space to the east of Eastfield cemetery as burial ground.



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Local Government Access to Information Act: for further information about this report please contact Kenneth Wilson, Head of Environment and Estates (01236 616407).

Appendix 1

	A	B	C	D	E
Area	Cemetery	Current Operational Life (new lair provision) without Investment	Operational Life (new lair provision) with Investment	Investment Required to Secure Timescales listed in Column C (£000s)	Maximum Operational Life (new lair provision)
North	Bedlay Cemetery	-	2036	Funds allocated	**
	Eastfield Cemetery	Spring 2035	-	-	Spring 2035**
	Eastfield Cemetery Muslim section	Autumn 2057	-	-	Autumn 2057
	Kilsyth Cemetery	Spring 2047	-	-	Spring 2047
Centre	Coltswood Road Cemetery*	Spring 2024	-	-	Spring 2024**
	New Monkland Cemetery*	Autumn 2022		-	Cemetery extension required**
	St Joseph's Cemetery	-	-	-	New lairs provided by New Monkland Cemetery
South	Airbles Cemetery	-	-	-	Bothwellhaugh cemetery developed
	Benhar Cemetery	Summer 2018	Autumn 2033	Funds allocated	Autumn 2033**
	Bothwellhaugh cemetery	Summer 2025	-	-	Spring 2042**
	Bothwellpark Cemetery	-	-	-	Bothwellhaugh cemetery developed
	Cambusnethan Cemetery	Spring 2024	-	-	Spring 2024
	Cambusnethan Cemetery Muslim section	Spring 2023			Summer 2053

* adjusted to accommodate lair demand resulting from St Joseph's Cemetery

** extension to existing cemetery may be possible