

CABINET – 1ST JULY 2021

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 12 NANPANTAN CEMETERY

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Nanpantan Cemetery.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The £60k Capital virement identified to support the Nanpantan Cemetery project was from the Open Spaces Strategy within the most recent Capital Programme and this was intended to improve the open spaces assets within the Borough. £78k of the Capital virements identified was surplus to a previous Green Spaces Programme.
- ii. There had been an underspend of £23k from a completed project to resurface Park Road Car Park. This underspend had been identified to support the Nanpantan Cemetery project.
- iii. It was not anticipated that the progression of the Nanpantan Cemetery project would cause delays to other projects or services. Following Cabinet approval of the virements highlighted, the project would commence with a predicted completion date of March 2022.
- iv. If the project was not able to progress at this stage, this would cause a break in service and a situation whereby members of the public would be required to find alternative locations for burial.
- v. A total budget of £70k had been allocated for tree planting initiatives. £40k of this total amount was intended to support tree and shrub planting at the new cemetery. A residual amount of £30k would remain to support other tree planting initiatives.
- vi. The initial budget allocated to the Nanpantan Cemetery project was £950k as stated in the Capital Programme in October 2020. The budget for the project

was informed by engaging with specialists and cost estimates. The increased budget as a result of the proposed virements was a result of further expenditure identified which had not been identified by advisors in the budget planning process.

- vii. There had been negotiations with contractors which had resulted in reducing the initial costs of the project and redesigning where appropriate.
- viii. It would not be financially reasonable to progress the project with a phased approach. There was a significant amount of infrastructure work to undertake initially, such as road construction and drainage and a large car park was required to support interments.
- ix. There had been a number of measures considered to deter antisocial activities within the Cemetery spaces, including timed barriers and ball stop fencing.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper: Scrutiny Commission Minute 13 2021/22, 28th June 2021

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