

**Report of the Head of Finance**

**Notification of Urgent Actions**

**1 Purpose of report**

1.1 To inform the committee of two uses of urgent action powers.

**2 Executive summary**

2.1 Actions which could not reasonably have been delayed for a decision of this committee have been taken in respect of two matters. These matters are the setting of fees for Family Grave plots and the agreement of the Strategic priority areas for the roll out of Superfast Northamptonshire project within the Borough.

**3 Appendices**

Appendix A – Request for Urgent Action – Family Grave Plots

Appendix B – Request for Urgent Action – Strategic Priority areas Superfast Northamptonshire.

**4 Proposed action:**

**4.1 The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note the Urgent Actions taken.**

**5 Background**

5.1 The Council's constitution provides a mechanism at paragraph 3.4.09 for use in cases where action is urgently needed and cannot be reasonably delayed for a decision of the Council or any of its committees.

5.2 The use of urgent action powers by the relevant officer is subject to consultation with the chairman of the relevant policy committee.

5.3 The use of urgent action powers must be reported to the next meeting of the relevant committee.

**6 Discussion**

6.1 The reasons why urgent actions were necessary in these cases are set out in Appendices A and B.

**7 Legal powers**

7.1 The Local Government Act 1972 permits a local authority to put in place a scheme of arrangements whereby decision making authority may be delegated to committees, sub-committees and officers.

**8 Financial and value for money implications**

8.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

**9 Risk analysis**

9.1 Normally a risk table is completed for any report setting out a proposed course of action. This is not appropriate here so the table has not been completed.

**10 Implications for resources**

10.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

**11 Implications for stronger and safer communities**

11.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

**12 Implications for equalities**

12.1 There are no such implications arising from this report.

**13 Author and contact officer**

13.1 Liz Elliott Head of Finance

**14 Consultees**

14.1 None

**15 Background papers**

None

**REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION**  
(In accordance with Section 3.4.09 Urgent Action of the Constitution)

<b>REPORTING COMMITTEE:</b> Resources Committee	
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING:</b> 25 <sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014	
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b> To agree the charge for Family Plots with the cemeteries fees and charges schedule. A fee of £435 each family plot is proposed and the interment fees the same as a memorial garden interment fee of £83. The fee is based on a historic fee for similar plots when previously offered, with cost of inflation for each subsequent year added on.	
<b>REASON FOR URGENCY:</b> THERE ARE CURRENTLY 3 FAMILIES WAITING TO PURCHASE THESE PLOTS AND DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THIS SERVICE IT IS UNREASONABLE TO KEEP THEM WAITING FOR A REPORT TO GO TO THE NEXT RESOURCES COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2014.	
<b>KEY FACTS:</b> SEE ATTACHED FACT SHEET PRODUCED BY NORSE	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (SEE BELOW):</b> THE FEE IS SET IN LINE WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED PRICING STRUCTURES AND WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE FOR NEXT YEAR TO BE FORMALLY AGREED AS PART OF THE BUDGET.	
<b>SIGNATURES:</b>	
• <b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b> Liz Ewson	<b>DATE:</b> 29th April 14
• <b>HEAD OF SERVICE:</b> [Signature] (Head of Finance)	<b>DATE:</b> 29th April 14
• <b>CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE:</b> (Paul Ben) [Signature]	<b>DATE:</b> 29/4/2014
<b>IF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SIGNATURE OF:</b> [Signature]	
• <b>CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>DATE:</b> 29/4/2012

**NB: To comply with the Constitution this signed urgent action pro forma must be attached to a report to the next meeting of the Committee concerned.**

## Family Plots Doddington Road Cemetery Wellingborough

These plots will hold up to 12 wooden ashes caskets measuring a maximum of 1ft X 1ft and can have a full headstone placed on them.

These plots seem to be unique to the county and possibly the rest of England as research on local authority burial websites doesn't list them in their fees. The ones that are listed show fees for ashes plots with the maximum of four ashes caskets.

Research has found that other local burial authorities sell families full burial plots if families need more casket space but these can be limited in number of ashes plots and none found will allow 12 caskets.

Previous family plots of this type in Doddington Road Cemetery were sold for more than a full burial plot.

Listed below are the Cemetery charges for BCW cemeteries for full burial plots, and family plots April 2006 – March 2007

Earth Graves (9ft X4ft)	£230.00
Family ashes plots (12 caskets)	£315.00

The cemetery fees increase by approximately 3% each year which I estimate the current cost of the family plots should be £435 each and the interment fee the same as a memorial garden interment fee of £83.

**REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION**  
(In accordance with Section 3.4.09 Urgent Action of the Constitution)

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:** Resources

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** TO AGREE THE INITIAL PRIORITY AREAS FOR THE ROLL OUT OF THE ADDITIONAL SUPERFAST BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT FACILITATED BY THE MATCHED FUNDING ARRANGEMENT WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL AS PART OF THE SUPERFAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PROJECT.

**REASON FOR URGENCY:**

NCC NEED TO HAVE THESE PRIORITIES AGREED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS PRIOR TO THE INVITATION TO TENDER BEING ISSUED TO THE MARKET TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL ROLLOUT OF SUPERFAST BROADBAND TO COVER THE AREAS NOT IN THE BT CONTRACT. THE DEADLINE FOR THIS IS 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014 AND AS SUCH AN URGENT ACTION TO AGREE THE PRIORITIES WAS NEEDED.

**KEY FACTS:**

THE COUNTY COUNCIL HAVE IN PLACE A SUPERFAST BROADBAND SCHEME WHICH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BT WILL DELIVER SUPERFAST CONNECTIVITY TO 90% OF THE COUNTY. THE REMAINING 10% IS NOT COMMERCIALY VIABLE TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS CONTRACT BUT WITH THE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OF FUNDING FROM DISTRICTS TO BE MATCH FUNDED VIA THE COUNTY COUNCIL FURTHER ROLL OUT CAN BE ACHIEVED TO COVER MOST, BUT NOT ALL, NON VIABLE "WHITE" AREAS IN THE COUNTY. THIS IS PART OF THE SUPERFAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PROJECT. BCW HAS AGREED WITH THE COUNTY TO FUND £50K PER ANNUM FOR 3 YEARS USING THE JOINTLY AGREED FUNDING HELD BY THE COUNTY FOR THE BENEFITS OF SECOND HOMES AND COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT SCHEMES. THERE ARE NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE OPPORTUNITY COSTS FOR OTHER USES OF THIS FUND. THE FUND HAS TO BE AGREED BY BOTH LEADERS AND S151 OFFICERS OF THE COUNCILS AND THIS HAS BEEN DONE. THE FUNDING WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE ENTIRE AREAS THAT ARE NON VIABLE AND SO PRIORITIES FOR THE USE OF THE FUNDS NEED TO BE AGREED. THIS WILL FORM PART OF THE TENDER PROCESS FOR THE POTENTIAL CONTRACTS TO DELIVER THIS ACROSS THE COUNTY AND COSTING WILL BE GENERATED BASED ON THE PRIORITIES.

BCW HAS DISCUSSED ITS PRIORITIES AND AGREED THEM AS :

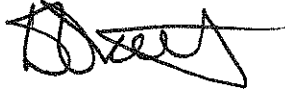
- KEY EMPLOYMENT AREAS
- THE TOWN CENTER
- OTHER "WHITE" AREAS INCLUDING DEMAND HOT SPOT COMMUNITIES ( AS IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE CONSULTATION)

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (SEE BELOW):**  
AS OUTLINED ABOVE

**NB:** To comply with the Constitution this signed urgent action pro forma must be attached to a report to the next meeting of the Committee concerned.

**SIGNATURES:**

• REPORT AUTHOR: LIZ ELLIOTT



DATE: 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014

• CEX:

DATE:

• CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE:



DATE:

9/6/2014

**IF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SIGNATURE OF:**

• CHAIRMAN/VICE-CHAIRMAN OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE:



DATE:

9/6/2014

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