

CABINET
5 JULY 2022

WEST CEMETERY DRAINAGE

**Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Andy Keir, Local Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director -
Dave Winstanley, Group Director of Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To request the release of funding for additional drainage works within West Cemetery.

Summary

2. As part of the Crematorium and Cemetery works concerns were raised regarding the drainage of the site through the planning process. A significant drainage system has been installed as part of the scheme. However, there remained concerns about one specific location. The MTFP 2022/23 made provision for a capital allocation of £250,000 to enable drainage improvement works within West Cemetery burial extension land focused on the pond/habitat area to minimise the potential of flooding to the some of the adjacent gardens of properties on Salutation Road.
3. The existing drainage within the old burial ground has been inspected and repair work carried out as necessary. In addition, as part of the new build chapel underground storage tanks have been installed to manage the flow of surface water from the new development. Land drains have also been installed along the boundary of properties on Salutation Road which will all have a positive impact to reduce potential flooding. However, the final area that requires investigation, design and implementation of a solution to further minimise any potential flooding is the pond/habitat area which backs onto properties on Salutation Road.
4. This report seeks approval to release capital to undertake investigates and any identified solutions in a phased approach

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that Members release capital of £250,000 as detailed in this report to carry out additional design and drainage works within West Cemetery.

Reason

6. The recommendation is supported by the following reason: to minimise the risk of flooding from the site to residential properties.

Group Director of Services
Dave Winstanley

Background Papers

- i. 8 October 2019 Cabinet : Darlington Crematorium Refurbishment
- ii. 9 March 2021 Cabinet : Darlington Crematorium Refurbishment – Cost Update
- iii. 8 February 2022 Cabinet : Medium Term Financial Plan – Investing In and Delivering Success for Darlington

Ian Thompson : Extension 6628
CD

S17 Crime and Disorder	There is no impact on crime and disorder as a result of this report.
Health and Wellbeing	There is no impact on health and wellbeing as a result of this report.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There is no impact on climate change as a result of this report.
Diversity	There is no impact on diversity as a result of this report.
Wards Affected	West Cemetery is located in Hummersknott Ward, however residents will use the facility from all Wards.
Groups Affected	No group is affected any differently as a result of this report.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	There is no impact on the Council Plan as a result of this report.
Efficiency	There is no impact on the Councils efficiency agenda as a result of this report.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. As part of the Crematorium and Cemetery works concerns were raised regarding the drainage of the site through the planning process. A significant drainage system has been installed as part of the scheme. However, there remained concerns about one specific location.
8. The aim of the design work and any proposed works is to further reduce the flood risk to adjoining properties on Salutation Road. Having reviewed the recent topographical and underground services survey information the drainage engineers have been able to identify that the area behind the properties where a pond was created a number of years ago is a low point forming a depression with an area of standing water. This depression sits lower than the care facility to the west, the allotment land to the north and the chapel site to the east/northeast (all potentially contributing to the surface water collected in this depression). The properties on Salutation Road are below the level of this pond and as such if this pond and the land floods there is evidence of flooding.
9. From the site/ground investigations on the recent Chapel site, infiltration or simple soakaways will not work effectively as a method of surface water disposal. It should be noted however that the contributing surface water effect to this pond/habitat area will be significantly reduced due to the Chapel site development with a large area now being positively drained.
10. The proposed work for the pond/habitat area will be split in to two stages prior to a decision to carry out physical site work. Stage 1 further investigation and options appraisal and stage 2 subject to the outcome of the initial work detailed design and delivery.
11. It is anticipated that work will take place later this year to tie in with the burial land extension and associated drainage. As a result of all the drainage work being carried within the cemetery and new development the risk of ongoing flooding to properties on Salutation Road that have previously experienced flooding to their gardens will be significantly reduced.

Financial Implications

12. An allocation of £250,000 is approved within the current MTFP for further drainage works within West Cemetery.

Procurement Advice

13. All procurement activity will be in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Where possible pre-existing approved contracts or frameworks will be used in the first instance.