

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

18 September 2025

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Gary Allen (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Fiona Cook, Ged Hall, Sue Little, and Aaron Roy,

Officers: Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Sarah Scarr, Head of Service - Heritage and Open Spaces
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

10. Apologies for Absence

None

11. Declarations of Interest

None

12. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2025

Received.

13. Review of Stranton Cemetery and Crematorium

Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide an overview on work that has recently being completed which

considers the long-term cemetery provision at Stranton and services connected with this.

To address a recent review of working practice and changes the service is looking to introduce to manage services for those under the age of 18 and deal with metal in the cremation process

Issue(s) for consideration

Members were informed of concerns around the future capacity of Stranton Grange Cemetery, particularly burial capacity. An independent report had been commissioned which proposed that the Cemetery be extended to the West at a cost of £1.25 million. Proposals were made around space for ashes burials, the introduction of a traffic movement and parking system and long term sustainability of assets. It was also suggested that consideration be given to the charitable donation of metals recycled during the cremation process and reclaiming the cost of delivering funerals for those under 18 via the Children's Funeral Fund for England.

Members felt it was necessary to take action as not to do so would reduce the space available for burial and potentially take that option from the deceased and their families. Concerns around the impact any building work would have on properties located near the extension site were highlighted but the Assistant Director for Preventative and Community Based Services assured those present that this was the first stage of the process and there would be full community engagement and public consultation before the plans were finalised.

Decision

- I. That the Masterplan summaries be noted and the recommendations agreed while acknowledging that further work was needed to develop detailed implementation plans.
- II. That the introduction of a scheme to recycle metals be agreed with any proceeds from this passed to charities chosen by the Ceremonial Mayor
- III. That the change in working practices to seek reimbursement for the cost of under 18 funerals be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 5.30pm

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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