

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

To: Environmental Services Committee

HARMONISATION OF CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

4 August 2015

For Decision

Reporting to Council

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	Harmonisation of Cemetery Rules & Regulations
Objective	Consistency across Borough
Lead Officer	Gareth Doyle
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

1.1 Background

Three out of the four Legacy Councils provided burial grounds and operated these grounds under their own Rules & Regulations. For consistency across Causeway Coast, new Rules & Regulations have been drafted.

1.2 Detail

Local Government Reform has provided the opportunity to re-assess the legacy Council Cemetery Rules & Regulations which, when compared, were found to contain ambiguities and inconsistencies. Using the experience of Cemetery Managers, new Rules & Regulations have been drafted to provide a consistent and coherent approach to cemetery operation and administration across the Borough. The draft Rules & Regulations (Appendix I) have been circulated to the Council Registrar and local Funeral Directors for comment. As a result, some changes were made to further improve the service to be provided.

Council should also be aware that legacy Councils, who operated 'lawn' cemeteries, had a different approach to dealing with unauthorised memorials (for example, grave surrounds). Therefore, Members are asked to consider options for dealing with unauthorised memorials which are still in place.

1.3 Options

Options include:

- a) Removal of unauthorised memorials
- b) Acceptance of unauthorised memorials installed to date but support strict adherence to new By-Laws as future sections are opened within cemeteries

1.4 Recommendation

- 1) It is recommended that Council approve the implementation of the proposed new Rules & Regulations
- 2) Following consideration of options, it is recommended that Council agree an approach to dealing with unauthorized memorials