

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee  
6 February 2014

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Agenda Item | <b>10</b>       |
| Report No   | <b>TEC 8-14</b> |

**Extensions and Improvements to Cemeteries**

**Report by Acting Head of Roads and Community Works**

**Summary**

This report invites Members to approve the updated 10 year programme for cemetery extensions and replacements.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 In a previous report presented to TECS committee on 14 March 2013 (TEC-26-13), Members approved a 10 year cemetery extension / replacement to be included in the Council's Capital Programme.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the programme together with details of progress.
- 1.3 The Highland Council is responsible for the maintenance of 257 cemeteries. This figure includes 84 cemeteries which have been closed for burials, however the Council is still responsible for maintaining the grounds.

**2. Current Position**

- 2.1 From the current assessment of cemetery capacity there are 27 cemeteries identified, an increase of 4 since 2013, as requiring extensions and /or replacements within the next 10 years, these are listed in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Work to provide an extension or a new cemetery is currently underway for 13 of the 27 cemeteries listed in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 Large scale extension works at 4 cemeteries, Morefield (Ullapool), Nairn, Tain and Acharacle will be completed within the next 12 months.
- 2.4 17 cemeteries have been identified with between 10 and 15 years capacity and these are listed in **Appendix B**.
- 2.5 Although there are sufficient lairs available to meet current demand, advance selling of lairs has been stopped at a number of cemeteries (in accordance with the Council's "Management Rules for Cemeteries"), to protect capacity for future burials.

### **3. 10 Year Programme of Cemetery Extensions / Replacements**

- 3.1 A programme has been produced showing when extensions and/or replacements will be provided for the 27 cemeteries in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2 The programme of extensions or replacements of cemeteries has been developed to spread works over several years with Area teams delivering works where practicable.
- 3.2 The Councils Capital Programme provides a general capital allocation of £100k per annum for the extension or replacement of cemeteries from 2014/15 to 2017/18. Works are programmed at Arisaig, Alness, Fodderty, Skeabost, Chaplehill, Clachan, Canisbay, Reay, Glen Nevis and St Mary's (Beauly) cemeteries in 2014/15.
- 3.3 For extension or replacement of large cemeteries the Capital Programme also includes a capital allocation £500k in 2016/17 and 2017/18.
- 3.4 The capacities of cemeteries in **Appendix B** will be kept under review and the cemeteries which fall below a 10 year capacity will be taken for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme
- 3.5 The cemetery extension programme will be reviewed annually to ensure that the time periods are accurate and that updated cost estimates are fed into the Capital Programme.

### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 The cost will be accommodated in the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 There are no equality implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.
- 4.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Members are invited to approve the updated programme of cemetery extensions and replacements as set out in **Appendix A**.

Designation: Acting Head of Roads and Community Works

Date: 23 January 2014

Author: Robin Pope, Roads & Community Works Manager

**APPENDIX A  
UNDER 10 YEARS CAPACITY (JAN 2014)**

|                 | Name of Cemetery | Location (near)              | Unsold lairs | Est. Years Remaining before no new burials | Comments   |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--|--|
| Skye            | Ashaig           | Between Broadford & Kyleakin | 0            | 0  | Currently closed for sale of new lairs. Burials in pre-sold lairs continuing. Alternative cemetery at Strath Cemetery (Broadford) being used. Alternative option required to serve Kyleakin. SEPA testing undertaken but no suitable alternative sites identified within locality. Options being assessed with Community Council and Ward Members. |
| Inverness-shire |                  | Dores                        | 0            | 0  | Currently closed for sale of new lairs. Land options being identified, meeting with Community Council and Ward Members to be arranged.   |
| Wester Ross     | Morefield        | Ullapool                     | 4            | 0  | Extension programmed to be operational in 2014/15. Works programmed for completion March 2014. Alternative Cemeteries at Clachan, Mill Street being used.  |
| Lochaber        | Kilmarlie        | Fort William                 | 0            | 0  | Closed to new lair sales alternative Cemetery at Glen Nevis being used. Adjacent Council owned land identified, feasibility to be assessed in 2014.  |
| Lochaber        | Acharacle        | In Acharacle at Sheilfoot    | 10           | 1  | Planning permission for extension approved. Land in HC ownership. Works commenced June 2013, due for completion in 2014. Estimated cost £110k. Pre-selling of lairs stopped.   |
| Lochaber        | Arisaig          | Arisaig                      | 10           | 2  | Potential suitable site for extension identified. Investigations to find alternative site continuing.  |

|                 | <b>Name of Cemetery</b> | <b>Location (near)</b> | <b>Unsold lairs</b> | <b>Est. Years Remaining before no new burials</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
|                 |                         |                        |                     |   | Option to use New Morar cemetery until acceptable site can be identified / developed.<br>Pre-selling of lairs stopped.                |
| Nairnshire      | Nairn (Grantown Rd)     | Nairn                  | <b>100</b>          | <b>2</b>  | Land purchase completed.<br>Commencement of works programmed 2013/14.<br>Completion programmed for 2014/15.                           |
| Easter Ross     | St Duthus               | Tain                   | <b>30</b>           | <b>2</b>  | Scheme programed to commence February 2014.<br>Opening planned for summer/autumn 2014.  |
| Wester Ross     | Fodderty                | Dingwall               | <b>74</b>           | <b>3</b>  | Planning permission for extension approved.<br>Concluding negotiations to purchase land.<br>Works programmed for completion 2015/16.  |
| Easter Ross     | Alness                  |                        | <b>50</b>           | <b>3</b>  | Site identification completed, land negotiations in progress.<br>Works planned for 2015/16.   |
| Skye            | Skeabost                | Skeabost Bridge        | <b>22</b>           | <b>4</b>  | SEPA Ground investigation completed.<br>Land negations proceeding.<br>Works planned for 2015/16, to be included in Capital programme. |
| Skye            | Stronuirinish           | Portree                | <b>72</b>           | <b>4</b>  | Planning permission for extension approved.<br>Works programmed to start Spring 2014.<br>Opening planned for spring 2015.             |
| Wester Ross     | Clachan                 | Ullapool               | <b>17</b>           | <b>5</b>  | Initial site options assessed.<br>SEPA ground investigation planned for 2014/15.  |
| Wester Ross     | Tore & Killeanan        | Tore                   | <b>71</b>           | <b>5</b>  | Tore and Killeanan operate as one site with Killeanan extension providing more than 15 years capacity.                                |
| Inverness-shire | Kilchuimen              | Fort Augustus          | <b>10</b>           | <b>5</b>  | Options assessed, meeting with Community Council and Ward Members to be held.   |
| Easter Ross     | Roskean                 | Invergordon            | <b>37</b>           | <b>5</b>  | Land purchase negotiations in progress.   |

|                 | Name of Cemetery | Location (near)                            | Unsold lairs | Est. Years Remaining before no new burials | Comments   |
|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------|--|--|
| Caithness       |                  | Reay                                       | 43           | 5  | Land secured.<br>Planning permission for extension approved.<br>Design planned for 2014/15.<br>Works programmed for 2015/16.             |
| Caithness       | Canisbay         | On the Thurso to JOG Road 14 m W of Thurso | 32           | 5  | Planning permission for extension approved.<br>Land purchased.<br>Works programmed to start 2013/14.<br>Opening planned for summer 2014. |
| Easter Ross     | Chapelhill       | Pitcalnie, Nigg                            | 13           | 6  | Feasibility study revised capacity figures.<br>Site identification to commence April 2014  |
| Inverness-shire | Dunlichity       | Dunlichity / Farr                          | 12           | 6  | Options will be assessed in 2014/15.   |
| Caithness       |                  | Wick                                       | 600          | 8  | Land identified for purchase.  |
| Easter Ross     | Logie Easter     | Kildary                                    | 45           | 8  | Feasibility study revised capacity figures.<br>Site identification planned in next 2 years.  |
| Sutherland      | Proncynain       | Dornoch                                    | 68           | 9  | Review of usage and capacity.<br>Options to be assessed in next 3 years.   |
| Inverness-shire | Ardersier        | Ardersier                                  | 90           | 8  | Options for extension or alternative site will be assessed in next 3 years.  |
| Inverness-shire | Tomnacross       | Kiltarlity                                 | 36           | 9  | Negotiations to secure land commenced.   |
| Lochaber        | Glen Nevis       | Fort William                               | 0            | 9  | Extension partly completed and new lairs available for burials.<br>Stopped pre-selling liars until extension is full completed.          |
| Inverness-shire | St Marys         | Beauly                                     | 135          | 20   | Drainage issue to be addressed to mitigate risk of early closure.<br>Feasibly and options to be assessed in 2014/15.                     |

**APPENDIX B****15 to 10 YEARS CAPACITY (JAN 2014)**

|                       | <b>Name of Cemetery</b>       | <b>Location (near)</b>                  | <b>Estimated years remaining before no new burials</b> | <b>Comments</b>   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Inverness-shire       | Kilvean                       | Kilvean, Inverness                      | 10   |   |
| Inverness-shire       | Old Kilmore                   | Drumnadrochit                           | 10   |   |
| Inverness-shire       | Dalarossie                    |   | 10   |   |
| Badenock & Strathspey | Cromdale                      |   | 11   |   |
| Easter Ross           | Roskean                       | Invergordon                             | 11   |   |
| Inverness-shire       | Foyers                        | Foyers                                  | 11   |   |
| Skye & Lochalsh       | Balmacara                     | Kyle of Lochalsh                        | 12   |   |
| Inverness-shire       | Eskadale St. Mary's           | Kiltarlity / Kilmorack                  | 12   | Underlying rock prevents double lairs, capacity reduced to less than 15 years.  |
| Inverness-shire       | Drumtemple                    | Errogie / Foyers                        | 12   |   |
| Sutherland            | Melness                       | Rural near Melness 50 miles W of Thurso | 12   | Extension planned for next 10 years. To be included in future capital programme |
| Skye & Lochalsh       | Dunvegan                      | Dunvegan                                | 13   |   |
| Wester Ross           | Contin                        | Contin                                  | 13   | Extension planned for next 10 years. To be included in future capital programme |
| Inverness-shire       | Daviot                        | Daviot                                  | 13   |   |
| Sutherland            | Balnakeil                     | Rural just W of Durness                 | 14   | Additional lairs found in Durness Old cemetery                                  |
| Easter Ross           | Tarbet New                    | Portmahomack                            | 15   | Site identification and feasibility required 2022/23                            |
| Sutherland            | Golspie Cemetery & Churchyard | Golspie                                 | 15   | Land identification & negotiation to commence within 6 years.                   |
| Wester Ross           | Strathconon New               | Marybank                                | 15   | Extension planned for next 10 years. To be included in future capital programme |