

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 19 April 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources
PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment and Environmental Services
SUBJECT: Improvements to Work Facilities at Cemetery Sites
WARD(S): Birchfield and Mersey

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to a capital scheme to create a new garage facility and waste bays at Widnes Cemetery and new waste bays at Runcorn Cemetery.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the proposed capital scheme to erect a new storage garage and waste storage bays at Widnes Cemetery and new storage bays at Runcorn Cemetery, be approved; and**
- 2) Council be asked to include the scheme in the 2018/19 Capital Programme, to be funded as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The garage facility at Widnes Cemetery, which is used for the storage of expensive plant items (dumper truck, mechanical excavator and mowing machines) has reached the end of its life and has become dangerous to use. It is currently out of use and needs to be demolished. Currently the excavator and the dumper are being stored in the open which is not ideal for the long term.
- 3.2 Mowing machines were being stored in a temporary container into which there have break-ins and loss of stock, therefore as a result the machines have now had to be moved to Victoria Park.
- 3.3 There are no adequate storage bays for surplus sub-soils and top soil at Widnes Cemetery. This has resulted in several unsightly temporary storage areas being created which are in plain view of visitors.
- 3.4 Runcorn Cemetery does have a storage bay area but it is no longer fit for purpose. It was built at a time when smaller skips were used. Difficult manoeuvres have to be made by the skip wagon in a publicly accessible area. Staff have to be deployed to protect the public during these manoeuvres which takes them away from their normal duties.

4. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- 4.1 It is proposed to erect a new purpose built garage at Widnes Cemetery along with associated hard standing. Although a new cemetery will open in Widnes within the next year, the existing facility will continue to see grave excavations for many years to come and will also still require maintenance going forward. The new facility would be located towards the rear of the cemetery, at a point that will not be in full public view (a planting scheme is included in the plans to mask the area and make it more attractive).
- 4.2 New storage bays for soil and green waste would be created adjacent to the garage at Widnes Cemetery.
- 4.3 A new storage bay area and skip store would be created at Runcorn Cemetery. The facilities would be split between the old cemetery and the new cemetery extension (east of Langdale Road).

5. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of the works is as follows:

Widnes Cemetery

1. New Garage Facility -	£53,295
2. New Storage Bays, Skip Store and Hard Standing	£75,000

Runcorn Cemetery

1. New Storage Bays, Skip Store and Hard Standing	£82,000
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Total Estimated Cost: £210,000

It is proposed that the £210,000 scheme should be added to the Council's capital programme for 2018/19. The annual capital financing cost of the scheme will be approximately £14,000 per annum, which will be met from the existing Cemeteries revenue budget.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified

7.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified

7.4 A Safer Halton

None identified

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

8. RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 None identified

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 There are no equality and diversity issues.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None.