

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 10(d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 DECEMBER 2015

<p>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion on the 19 November 2015.
3. At that meeting, the panel agreed its terms of reference for its current review in respect of Bereavement Services. The Panel agreed that the review will focus on three areas; future opening / services times, investment in the service, alternative charging policies and providing a wider offer for families beyond the initial period of bereavement.
4. In accordance with the agreed terms of reference a visit to Linthorpe Cemetery, Acklam Cemetery, Teesside Crematorium and Kirkleatham Crematorium was undertaken by the panel. During the visit the panel met with key Members of the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery Group, the Manager of Kirkleatham Memorial Park, the Council's Head of Bereavement Services and the Operational Manager at Teesside Crematorium.
5. The panel was provided with an overview of the range of services available in Teesside in respect of cremation and burial services, as well as the work undertaken by staff and friends groups to protect and celebrate the history contained in Middlesbrough's cemeteries.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

**COUNCILLOR DENISE ROONEY
CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY PANEL**

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