

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Cemetery Provision – Middlesbrough			
Coverage:	Service Specific			
This is a decision relating to:	☐ Strategy	☐ Policy	☒ Service	☐ Function
	☐ Process/procedure	☐ Programme	☐ Project	☐ Review
	☐ Organisational change ☐ Other (please state)			
It is a:	New approach:	☐	Revision of an existing approach:	☒
It is driven by:	Legislation:	☐	Local or corporate requirements:	☒
Description:	Key aims, objectives and activities Burial provision in Middlesbrough is limited, the Council is proposing actions to increase supply to continue to meet demand for burial provision. Statutory drivers The Local Government Act 1972 provides that Local Authorities (as burial authorities) may provide and maintain cemeteries whether in or outside their area. This also extends to burial purposes under the Cremation Acts of 1902 and 1952. The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977 further provides that a burial authority may enclose, lay out and embellish a cemetery in such manner as they think fit, and from time to time improve it, and shall keep the cemetery in good order and repair, together with all buildings, walls and fences thereon and other buildings provided for use therewith. The Local Authority has no statutory duties to provide burial provision however it has provided provision for over a century and endeavours to continue to do so. Differences from any previous approach Middlesbrough Council currently provide burial space in Acklam and Thorntree Cemetery but has a limited supply. There is some scope to expand within Thorntree (subject to planning consent) which is the primary objective. Following this, additional feasibility work is required to assess whether or not there is any capacity within the Acklam site, or on its periphery. Additionally, there is a need to assess for future sites, for longer-term burial provision. Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate) Residents of Middlesbrough – by providing burial provision in Middlesbrough this negates a resident having to seek burial provision in a neighbouring authority for their loved ones. Intended outcomes • By expanding the Thorntree Cemetery this provides a five-six year supply, which assists in the short term. • Assessment of the Acklam Cemetery and periphery sites will ascertain whether a medium term supply can be determined. • Further land site analysis of other sites (undeveloped land in Middlesbrough) will determine whether or not a longer term supply can be unlocked.			
Live date:	4 th November 2025			
Lifespan:	A permanent change.			
Date of next review:	N/A			

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?	☒	☐	☐	There are no concerns that the report proposals could impact negatively on the human rights of individuals. The proposals will positively impact on Article 9 – freedom of thought, belief and religion as it will ensure burial continues to be available to those who believe that burial is preferable for their loved ones because of religious belief. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance for details on the issues covered by each of theses broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?	☒	☐	☐	The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires that when exercising its functions the Council must have due regard to the need to: - - eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. In having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity, the Council must consider, as part of a single equality duty: - removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic. - taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it; and - encouraging people who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation is low. There is no identified adverse differential impact on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law. The proposal is particularly relevant to the Religion and/ or belief protected characteristic. It will ensure burial continues to be available to those who believe that burial is preferable for their loved ones because of religious belief. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?	☒	☐	☐	No direct impact on community relationships is envisaged. The proposal will ensure there continues to be capacity within Middlesbrough's cemeteries to support the needs of different communities that exist within Middlesbrough. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Armed Forces Could the decision impact negatively on those who are currently members of the armed forces of former members in the areas of Council delivered healthcare, compulsory education and housing policies?	☒	☐	☐	No direct impact on current or former members of the armed forces. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.
Care leavers Could the decision impact negatively on those who are care experienced?	☒	☐	☐	No direct impact on care leavers. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.
Reducing Poverty Could the decision impact negatively on the Council's ambitions to reduce poverty in the town?	☒	☐	☐	There is no impact on ambitions to reduce poverty within the town. There are no job losses planned within the review. Evidence used to assess the impact of this proposal includes analysis of burial preferences, guidance on religious needs, analysis of current capacity of cemeteries in Middlesbrough and forecasting of likely future demand.
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Nasreen Younis	Head of Service:	Sam Gilmore
Date:	04/11/2025	Date:	5/11/2025