### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Agenda Item	3
Report No	HC/35/14

#### **BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION**

# **Report by Head of Corporate Governance**

# Summary

This report invites the Council to agree to provide for the extension of the existing burial grounds at Nairn, Fodderty, Tain, Portree, Acharacle and Kilvean.

### 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In order to determine whether an extension to any existing burial ground should be provided, the Council is obliged to follow a requisition and special meeting procedure set out in Section 9 of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855. This Report only concerns the process which must be followed under Section 9 of the 1855 Act. The acquisition of land, where required, is dealt with separately.
- 1.2 In accordance with Section 9 of the 1855 Act, a requisition has been received, signed by two Members requiring that a special meeting be held to determine whether the following extensions to existing burial grounds should be provided:
  - (a) an extension to the burial ground at Nairn should be provided using land at Granny Barbour Road, Nairn, as per the attached **Plan 1**.
  - (b) an extension to the burial ground at Fodderty, as per the attached **Plan 2**.
  - (c) an extension to the burial ground at St Duthus Cemetery in Tain as per the attached **Plan 3**.
  - (d) an extension to the burial ground at Portree as per the attached **Plan 4**.
  - (e) an extension to the burial ground at Acharacle as per the attached **Plan 5**.
  - (f) an extension to the burial ground at Kilvean, as per the attached **Plan 6**.
- **1.3** An extension will be provided in accordance with the 1855 Act if the majority of those Members voting at a special meeting resolve that the proposed extensions to the existing burial grounds are to be provided.

**1.4** The budget for burial ground extensions by Community Services is accommodated in the Council's Capital Programme, as approved at Highland Council on 27 June 2013.

# 2 PROPOSALS

At the Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee on 14 March 2013, Report No. TEC/26/13 was circulated which highlighted that a number of cemeteries were reaching full capacity and it recommended that a 10 year cemetery extension/replacement programme was developed – this was approved. At the Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee on the 6 February 2014, Report No. TEC/8-14 was circulated which provided members with an update on the cemetery extension/replacement programme and noted that the burial grounds at Acharacle, Fodderty, Nairn, Portree and Tain all had less than 5 years capacity whilst the burial ground at Kilvean had 10 years capacity left.

### 3 IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal, equalities, climate change/carbon clever, risk, Gaelic or rural implications arising as a direct result of this report.

# **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is asked to agree to provide the burial ground extensions as listed above at Paragraph 1.2 under Section 9 of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855, as amended.

Signature:

Designation: Head of Corporate Governance

Date:

Background paper: Signed requisition dated 16 October 2014











