

# The Highland Council

Agenda Item	13
Report No	CIA/23/25

**Committee:** City of Inverness Area

**Date:** 19 May 2025

**Report Title:** Bereavement Services – Project Updates

**Report By:** Assistant Chief Executive – Place

## 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members on the work being undertaken on burial ground capacity and new and/or extended burial grounds in the Inverness area.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-

- i. **Note** the progress of burial ground extensions in the Inverness area; and
- ii. **Note** the challenges with identifying and developing suitable land for burial ground development

## 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The Council on 14 September 2023 approved a capital budget for bereavement services of £2.226m for 2023/24 and £4.168m for 2024/25 - 2028/29.
- 3.2 **Legal** – The Council has a statutory obligation to manage burial provision, memorial safety and cremations as set out in the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.
- 3.3 **Risk** – If burial ground extensions or new sites are not provided there is a risk that the Council will be unable to provide burials in some locations to meet the expectations and preferences of communities. The establishment of a project board for proactive oversight and support for projects serves to reduce service risks.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – The safety of staff and visitors in burial grounds is a statutory obligation for local authorities and memorial safety inspections are undertaken to reduce risks.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** – There are not considered to be any Gaelic implications.

## **4 Impacts**

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is an update report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

## **5 Background**

- 5.1 Section 3 of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 requires each local authority to provide at least one burial ground within its area. The Highland Council has 247 burial grounds with 39 being within the Inverness area. Of these, 27 are operational and 12 are closed. **Appendix 1** provides a breakdown of lair availability and capacity data for burial grounds in the Inverness area.

## **6 Burial Ground Capacity Projects in the Inverness area**

- 6.1 Through the capital programme the Council aims to provide appropriate burial ground provision in the Highlands. The team are reviewing burial ground extensions where current capacity is less than 10 years based on past trends. Information on burials and lair sales is monitored on a weekly basis following submission from all bereavement services administrative teams.
- 6.2 The Bereavement Services Project Board meets regularly, to support the work of the team delivering burial ground extensions and new sites. The board ensures good governance in delivering the programme and membership includes key internal partners in delivering the projects such as the Estates management team, the Project Design Unit and Finance.
- 6.3 The Board recognises the challenges in some areas with burial ground provision with it becoming increasingly difficult to identify available land for development of extensions or for new burial grounds. The reasons include:-
  - a) land availability and purchase cost;
  - b) developmental costs;
  - c) land suitability and geology – land conditions and requirements must comply with SEPA guidelines for burial grounds, be relatively flat land with little or no rock formations;
  - d) regulatory requirements – the selection of any new sites or extensions must not cause any pollution to the environment, including groundwater and this is regulated by SEPA; and
  - e) acceptability with local Planning considerations.

6.4 The following projects have recently been completed within the Inverness area:-

- Croy Burial Ground – works to add additional lairs within the current cemetery boundary were completed in March 2025. 87 additional lairs were created, adding over 45 years additional capacity with space for further expansion in the future.
- Petty Tornagrain Burial Ground – 18 new lairs were created within the cemetery in February 2025, adding an additional 4 years capacity.

Tomnacross Burial Ground – 19 new lairs were created within the cemetery in February 2025, adding an additional 9 years capacity.

6.5 Four burial grounds within the Inverness area have less than 10 years current capacity; Kilvean, Kilmorack, Petty Tornagrain and Dores:-

- Kilvean Burial Ground – there is currently over 4 years of prepared lairs within the current phase of the site. Planning permission has been approved and drainage work completed for the next extension; this will increase capacity by approximately 10 further years. Further plans are being developed to utilise other areas of the burial ground, potentially adding another 15-20 years capacity.
- Kilmorack Burial Ground – works to increase capacity within the existing cemetery boundary will be undertaken in Summer 2025. These works are expected to increase the current capacity to over 10 years.
- Petty Tornagrain Burial Ground – options for further lairs within the present burial ground boundary are being investigated.
- Dores Burial Ground – works to create a new extension is expected to begin in 2025, there has been a slight delay due to the delay in the construction of the shared access road, now due to start in May 2025 lead by the housing team.

6.6 Work is still ongoing to review detailed projects for the current capital budget for 2024/25 - 2028/29 of £4.168m. The bereavement services team will continue to engage with local Members on projects in their area and their ongoing support is appreciated.

## 7. Book of Remembrance

7.1 The Book of Remembrance, dating back to 1995, is currently housed within the Memorial Tower at Inverness Crematorium. As of May 2025, the Book can now be viewed and accessed online at <https://www.alwaysloved.xyz/invernesscrematorium>. **Appendix 2** details a new information leaflet which has now been introduced to increase the profile and visibility of the Book.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 15 April 2025

Author: John MacLean, Bereavement Services Manager  
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Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Inverness Area Burial Ground Capacities & Lair  
Figures  
Appendix 2 – Book of Remembrance Information Leaflet

## Appendix 1

### Inverness Area Burial Ground Capacities & Lair Figures

Figures as of 06/04/2025

Name	Ward	Status	Number of prepared lairs available	Average Lairs sold per year	Current capacity in years
Ardersier	17	Open	26	2.0	13.0
Auchterawe	12	Open	40	0.1	480.0
Beaully St Mary's	12	Open	296	1.4	208.9
Boleskine	12	Closed	-	-	-
Breaklish	17	Closed	-	-	-
Cannich	12	Open	45	1.0	45.0
Clachan Comar (Fasnakyle)	12	Closed	-	-	-
Corriemony	12	Closed	-	-	-
Croy	17	Open	100	1.8	54.5
Dalarossie	19	Open	25	1.0	25.0
Dalchreichart	12	Open	100	0.0	100.0
Daviot	19	Open	542	3.2	171.2
Dores	12	Closed	-	-	-
Drumtemple	12	Open	80	0.8	108.7
Dunlichity	12	Open	21	0.1	22.0
Eskadale St Mary's	12	Open	17	1.2	14.6
Foyers	12	Open	26	1.0	26.0
Glenconvinth	12	Open	55	1.5	36.7
Invermoriston	12	Open	94	0.4	225.6
Inverness Chapel Yard	14	Closed	-	-	-
Inverness Greyfriars	14	Closed	-	-	-
Inverness Old High	14	Closed	-	-	-
Jenkins Park	12	Open	95	1.5	63.3
Kilchuimen	12	Open	10	0.8	13.3
Kilmorack New/Old	12	Open	8	10.3	0.8
Kilmore New	12	Open	45	2.0	22.5
Kilmore Old	12	Open	27	1.4	19.1
Kiltarlity	12	Open	3	0.3	12.0
Kilvean	13	Open	537	126.1	4.3
Kirkhill (Wardlaw)	12	Open	24	3.1	7.8
Kirkton of Ardersier	17	Closed	-	-	-
Kirkton of Bunchrew	12	Closed	-	-	-
Lochend	12	Closed	-	-	-
Moy	19	Open	20	0.0	20.0
Old Petty (Castle Stuart)	17	Closed	-	-	-
Petty Tornagrain	17	Open	42	9.3	4.5
Struy	12	Open	59	0.6	101.1
Tomnacross	12	Open	21	2.1	10.1
Tomnahurich	13	Closed	-	-	-

# Memorial Tower

Our Book of Remembrance is a lasting tribute, housed within our Memorial Tower at Inverness Crematorium. This serene location offers a peaceful space for quiet reflection and remembrance.



Memorial Tower  
at Inverness Crematorium



Inverness Crematorium,  
Kilvean Road, Inverness  
IV3 8JN



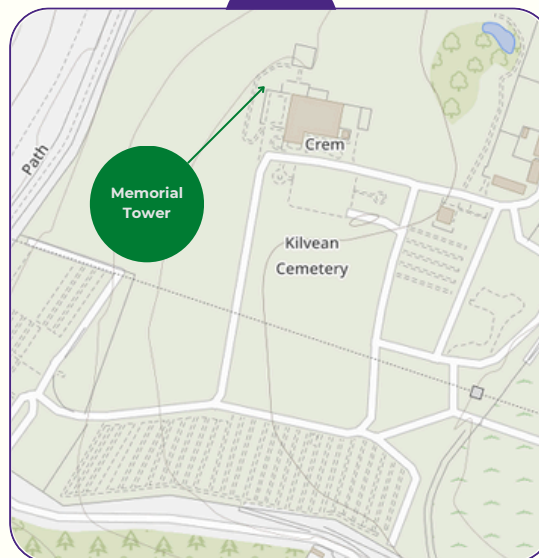
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highland.gov.uk



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## Book of Remembrance

at Inverness  
Crematorium



## A Lasting Tribute to Your Loved One

Our Book of Remembrance is handmade, bound in leather and features beautifully crafted memorial inscriptions, ensuring a heartfelt tribute to those you cherish.



Each day of the year has a separate page within the book.



The book is opened daily to display the entries on each anniversary.



The book is available to view online at [www.alwaysloved.xyz/invernesscrematorium](http://www.alwaysloved.xyz/invernesscrematorium)



Scan to view online



## Options

Inscriptions can have two, five or eight lines of text and can include a floral motif, coat of arms, regimental badge or other emblem.

Other options are available, such as Memorial Cards and leather bound miniature Books of Remembrance.

## Contact Us

To discuss adding an inscription to the Book of Remembrance, please contact us using details overleaf.

